GMA admits graft in RP but solons angry at US envoy

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 2

Group defends Great Wall from tourists

BEIJING—Built centuries ago to keep Mongol marauders and Manchu militias out, the Great Wall of China is again threatened. This time from the inside.

Vacationers are

GROUP/A6

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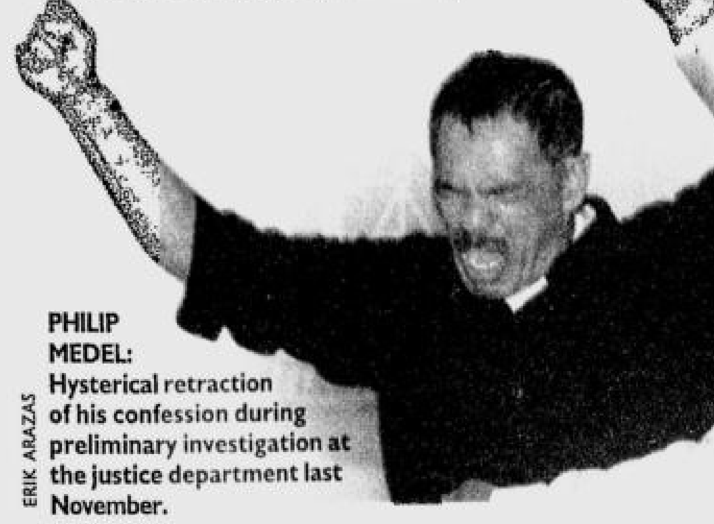
Estrada's P50M went to 'Tabang'—CBCP

By Armand N. Nocum

WHERE did the P50-million donation to the Catholic bishops by ousted President Joseph Estrada go?

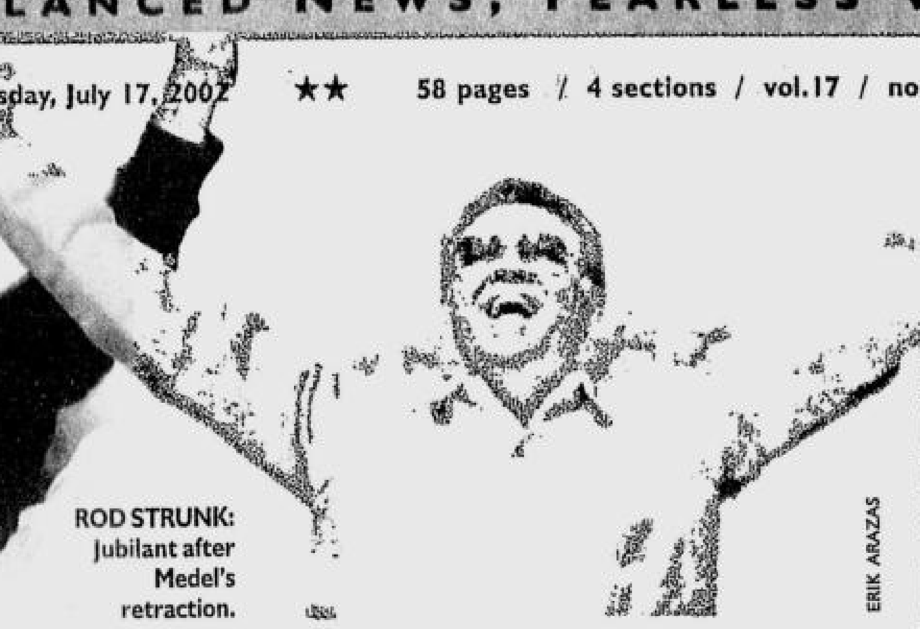
To Tabang Mindanaw, according to the president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, Archbishop Orlando Quevedo.

ESTRADA'S/A19



PHILIP MEDEL: Hysterical retraction of his confession during preliminary investigation at the justice department last November.

ERIK ARAZAS



ROD STRUNK: Jubilant after Medel's retraction.

ERIK ARAZAS

NBI: Rod Strunk principal suspect

8 others to be charged for Nida murder

By Philip C. Tubeza

SIX men are expected to be charged as early as today with the murder of popular actress Nida Blanca eight months ago—including Blanca's American husband, Rod Lauren Strunk, as one of the principals. Three more men are expected to be charged with obstruction of justice.

Director Reynaldo Wycoco of the National Bureau of Investigation said three would be charged in the Department of Justice as principals in the sensational crime, while three would be charged as accessories. Wycoco declined to name the suspects, only saying that they were neither former government officials nor show business personalities.

But other sources familiar with the case said the principals were Strunk, the controversial Philip Medel Jr., and the missing Mike Martinez.

Medel, the "confessed killer" presented by the erstwhile Task Force Marsha, originally identified Strunk as the mastermind, only to dramatically recant his testimony on live television on Nov. 23.

Martinez, according to Medel, was the one who contracted him to do the job. He went missing on Nov. 19.

Three others are also ex-

NBI/A19

THE PAIN of loss is eased "by remembering the good times," says Kaye Torres here with her mother Nida Blanca whom she describes as an "irreplaceable guide and mentor, my best friend who loved me unconditionally."

PHOTO COURTESY OF KAYE TORRES

Strunk piled up P8M in credit card bills; Nida mad

By Jerry Esplanada

THE UNEMPLOYED husband of slain actress Nida Blanca lived an "extravagant lifestyle"—in one three-year period racking up P8 million in credit card bills—that eventually forced Blanca to seriously consider divorcing him, the INQUIRER learned over the weekend.

On at least three occasions, to at least three different persons, Blanca talked about her plans to divorce Rod Strunk, her American husband of 22 years.

The popular actress, Dorothy Jones in real life, disclosed her plan to Katherine Joan "Kaye" Torres, her only child; Elena de la Paz, her trusted aide of 45 years; and veteran actress Delia Razon, one of her friends in show business.

Blanca, who is best remembered for the long-running television sitcom "John en Marsha" in which she co-starred with comedy king Dolphy, "first talked about it during one of our long, heart-to-heart talks over the phone" sometime in July 2001, Torres told the INQUIRER. Blanca was found dead on the morning of Nov. 7 last year.

It was Torres who made the overseas call from her home in Torrance, located in Los Angeles, California, where she has been based since 1991. The property was a gift from her mother in 1996.

"I could sense my mom was feeling low that time. She was on the verge of tears. My mom said she had given Rod an ultimatum, asking him to shape up

STRUNK/A19

GMA: Only Reds don't support me

By Dona Pazzibugan and Christine Avendaño

EXCEPT for the "Reds," civil society groups that helped oust Joseph Estrada still support her administration, President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday.

"I'm glad that the majority of civil society still supports me. The only ones who don't support me are the communists," Ms Macapagal said on dzRH yesterday. She did not identify the groups she was referring to.

Ms Macapagal had previously referred to leaders of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) and its political party, Bayan Muna, as communists. She said that she was not surprised to lose Bayan's support since they had "ideological differences" from the start.

Ms Macapagal has just made peace with the Kongreso ng

GMA/A6

DENNIS SABANGAN

LIFE GOES ON

Major streets in Guagua, Pampanga, were submerged in waist-deep waters as of Monday but residents take it all in stride as they carry on with the day's routine.

Poll violence latest count: 87 dead, 45 injured

By TJ Burgonio, *in Manila* and Anselmo Roque
PDI Central Luzon Desk

AT LEAST 87 people were killed and 45 injured in 183 violent incidents in connection with Monday's synchronized Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) and barangay elections, military officials said yesterday.

On election day, four people were killed while five others were hurt, said Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling, Armed Forces deputy chief of staff and commander of Task Force Honest, Orderly and Peaceful Elections.

Camiling said the election proper was marred by 26 "incidents," including two shooting cases, two incidents of ballot snatching, burning of a school

POLL/A6

Gloria: Yes, corruption exists in RP

By Carlito Pablo and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday grudgingly conceded that, as pointed out the other day by US Ambassador Frank Ricciardone, the problem of corruption was discouraging investments in the country.

Giving curt replies in Filipino during a radio interview, the President said not only Ricciardone but also businessmen had in fact raised the matter to her. But she refrained from using the word "corruption" itself.

"What is important is that our

GLORIA/A18

Lawmakers resent corruption tag, slam US envoy

By Juliet L. Javellana and Cynthia D. Balana

HACKLES raised, Philippine lawmakers yesterday assailed US Ambassador Frank Ricciardone and demanded an apology for his statement of widespread corruption in the country, particularly in the judiciary.

"Can (Philippine) Ambassador (Albert) del Rosario talk like that in Washington?" said Negros Occidental Rep. Jun Lozada, chair of the House foreign relations committee and vice chair for foreign relations of the ruling Lakas.

Lozada said the US government should issue a public apology to President Macapagal-Arroyo and to the Filipino people, although he added that "no amount of apology can undo the damage."

Opposition Sen. Blas Ople said that while Ricciardone's remarks could be well meaning and arising from a genuine concern for the Philippines, the ambassador could not be given license to speak like a "two-cent radio commentator."

He said that at the very least, Ricciardone's remarks were discourteous to the President, who had aligned her foreign policy to cooperate fully with the US-led global coalition against international terrorism.

"I believe the ambassador owes us an apology for his statement of misplaced zeal and arrant interference in our internal affairs," said Ople, reportedly Malacañang's choice for the foreign affairs portfolio. "(He) must not act like an American proconsul to an independent and sovereign Philippine republic, which also happens to be a major security partner of the United States."

LAWMAKERS/A18

DAPAT MAY ALAM ANG SENADO DYAN!

U.S. PRESSURE CITED

GMA to sign MLSA 'when we're ready'

By Carlito Pablo, Juliet Javellana and Cynthia Balana

"WE will be ready when we will be ready."

The President said yesterday she was in no particular rush to sign the Mutual Logistics Supply Agreement, despite what many legislators said was undue pressure from the United States.

Negros Occidental Rep. Jun Lozada, chair of the House committee on foreign relations, said the US request to conclude the MLSA before the end of the month—a wish aired by US Ambassador Frank Ricciardone—was unreasonable, given the absence of consultations among Philippine officials.

Lozada said he himself had yet to see the draft.

Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo said the United States was pressuring not only the government but also the public to accept the continued presence of American troops.

Ocampo said the MLSA was a "very devious design of going around the constitutional ban" against foreign troops and bases.

Lozada said it was not even clear whether the proposed MLSA would be a treaty or an executive agreement.

Senate scrutiny

If it is a treaty it should be submitted to the Senate for ratification, he noted.

"But we have not even resolved our problem in the Senate so the US should not be pressuring us. We have our own priorities," Lozada said.

In the Senate, opposition leader Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. asked Malacañang to submit the draft MLSA to the Senate for closer scrutiny.

In calling for a Senate briefing, Pimentel said the MLSA will not encounter any problem in the upper chamber as long as its terms and conditions were within the context of the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement of 1999 and conform with the Constitution.

"It would be better if the MLSA is submitted to the Senate for review," he said. "I believe that the senators are entitled to look into the MLSA just like any bilateral and international agreement for that matter."

Pimentel noted that the secretaries of defense, foreign affairs and justice have been conducting negotiations on the MLSA with Washington for the last nine months. He lamented that the Senate had been kept in the dark about the discussions.

Pimentel said the Senate might not object to the agreement as long as it was being treated as a commercial transaction between two sovereign nations.

In this case, he said, the US will have to pay for services rendered by Filipinos for refueling and repair of naval facilities.

Under negotiation

Yesterday, President Macapagal-Arroyo said she herself has not seen the final draft.

"It hasn't reach `ed my level yet," she said.

Ricciardone told foreign correspondents the other day that his government had been ready to sign the MLSA, which will involve refueling and servicing facilities for American military aircraft and ships in the country, as early as February this year.

Malacañang has been keeping a tight lid on the negotiations, conceding only that middle-level officials were still working on the draft.

But Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr., chair of the House defense committee, welcomed Ricciardone's request to have the MLSA signed in time for the visit of US Secretary of State Colin Powell early next month.

"There's nothing wrong with that. As in the Visiting Forces Agreement, it is also the US which made the request," Pichay said.

Pichay said there was no truth to speculation that the MLSA would pave the way for the reestablishment of US bases.

"This is only logistics support and we would get paid for the use of our ports or storage facilities by the US," Pichay said.

In the House, however, Lozada reiterated his request for the President to convene the National Security Council to approve the MLSA.

New RP-US exercise stresses health care

By TJ Burgonio

COOPERATION Afloat Readiness and Training (Carat), the annual joint RP-US naval exercises that kick off today, have more "humanitarian" than military components, Filipino and US military officials said yesterday.

Some 1,400 American sailors, Marines and Coast Guard, and 1,396 Filipino counterpart are taking part in the opening activities of Carat 2002 at the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority complex, Olongapo City.

Lt. Leslie Hull-Ryde, US spokesperson for the exercises, said that outside of the 11-day main exercise, participants would conduct a series of outreach programs in several communities.

"Our doctors and dentists are going to team up with their Filipino counterparts, visit local communities and provide free medical and dental services, while veterinarians will provide free care for domestic and farm animals," Ryde said during a briefing in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Apart from this, Ryde added, Filipino and US sailors would work together to refurbish schools, teach English and otherwise interact with the pupils. They will also visit orphanages.

Brig. Gen. Eduardo Purificacion, military spokesperson, said that, "unlike the Balikatan (02-1) exercises, Carat has no military component, except for familiarization firing."

Asked if this meant live ammunition, Ryde explained, "It will be (held) at a (firing) range, with safety observers and with small arms, and it just basically gives us the opportunity to keep our critical skills high."

Five US Navy ships—the USS Vincennes, USS Anchorage, USS George Philip, USCGC Morgenthau and USS Salvor—and three Filipino ships—BRP Teotimo Figuracion, BRP Jose Andrada and BRP Humabon—are taking part in the naval exercises, which are focused on preparedness for disaster relief efforts.

Other parts of the exercises, now on its eighth consecutive year, will be held at the Marine Base Ternate in Ternate, Cavite; the Naval Education and Training Command in Zambales, and Fort San Felipe in Sangley Point, Cavite City.

Purificacion said there were no terms of reference governing the Carat naval exercises, unlike the Balikatan.

"That's because this exercise is under the Mutual Defense Treaty," he said, pointing out that the Balikatan exercises were approved under the Visiting Forces Agreement.

Both Purificacion and Ryde dismissed allegations that the holding of Carat 2002 had come as a surprise. Purificacion said, "This is a yearly, and low key, exercise."

Bunyes make Palace history

PRESS Secretary Ignacio Bunye marked his first day at his new job yesterday, setting in place the first father-daughter tandem that speaks for the First Couple.

As press secretary, Bunye will articulate the positions of President Macapagal-Arroyo, while his daughter, Patricia, a lawyer like him, has long been the spokesperson of First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo.

"My daughter and I are in perfect synch," Bunye said at his first press briefing in Malacañang.

He noted that their "like father, like daughter" roles have been "reversed" since his daughter had a head start over him as spokesperson for Mr. Arroyo.

He said it was Patricia who used to follow in his footsteps, first as a journalist, then as a lawyer and later as a street parliamentarian.

"I'm now following in her footsteps," Bunye said.

He said he had a hectic first day that started with a briefing that was interrupted by two interviews with radio stations.

But, he told the Malacañang Press Corps, he was "not really coming in cold" because he once worked as a print and broadcast journalist.

He noted that one of his former editors, Ricky Agcaoili, is now an official with the Presidential News Desk.

Bunye said that he didn't foresee any problems as far as having a father-daughter team speaking for the President and her husband.

"It's not everyday that you get an offer to serve in such a challenging position," he said, to explain why he accepted the press secretary post.

Bunye is a former Muntinlupa congressman and mayor. He promised to be accessible to media.

Carlito Pablo

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Rains leave higher food prices, P296M in damage

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE RECENT monsoon rains and typhoons have destroyed some 80,377 metric tons of palay, corn and other crops, fishery and livestock worth an estimated P296 million, the Department of Agriculture said yesterday.

The losses caused the prices of meat, fish and vegetables to shoot up in the wet markets, the DA added.

A DA survey of provinces in Regions I, III, IV, XII and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao showed that 24,554 hectares of palay were destroyed in the last two weeks.

Damage to 13,883 hectares of cornfields could force the government and local firms to import additional volumes of the grain.

The higher prices of foodstuff in the wet markets are expected to remain until the floods subside and transporting them is made easier, the DA said.

Vegetable prices went up by an average of P10 to P50 per kilo for carrots, tomatoes, eggplants, native pechay and cabbage, the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS) monitoring report of wet markets in Novaliches, Muntinlupa, Pasig and Metro Manila indicated.

Prices of fish, like *galunggong*, are up P20 from P60 to P80 per kilo; *tilapia* is now at P70 a kilo from P50, and *bangus* costs P80 per kilo up from P60.

Prices of pork and beef products have also risen by at least P30, from P100 and P120 per kilo, respectively, to P130 and P150 per kilo, the BAS survey said.

"As soon as the weather normalizes, I am confident the prices will go back to previous levels," said Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor in a statement.

Montemayor said the rains reversed the extended dry spell, creating a positive impact on agriculture.

"Notwithstanding all the (reported damage), the rains were still favorable to land preparation, particularly to palay and corn," Montemayor said.

The government, however, is not waiting for a rice shortage to occur and has imported 250,000 more metric tons of the staple, Montemayor said.

'Hands on,' Gloria describes DFA style

By C. Herrera

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday assured senior diplomats that she would be a "hands on" foreign affairs secretary, even if she would not hold office at the Department of Foreign Affairs.

She assumed leadership of the DFA by meeting with its officials in Malacañang for an hour, and issuing her first memorandum on how things would be under her. First item on her work plan: "excellent lines of communication."

Starting today, the 11th floor office vacated by Vice President and resigned Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. would serve as a "communications center," according to Senior Undersecretary Lauro Baja Jr.

Guingona stepped down Friday following a policy dispute over the deployment of American troops for a counter-terrorism training exercise in the southern Philippines.

In a news briefing at the DFA, Baja said the President named Cecille Rebong, chief of presidential protocol, as chief coordinator between the DFA and the Palace. As such, Rebong would take over Guingona's former office and report to the President daily.

Baja said the DFA officials offered Ms Macapagal "our total support and outright cooperation."

The acting DFA chief made it clear that the welfare of overseas Filipino workers was her priority. She instructed the officials to be "more service oriented," and ordered the installation of a nationwide 1-800 (toll free) number that relatives of overseas Filipinos could call, particularly during disasters and other emergencies.

Ms Macapagal also accepted the courtesy resignation of Sixto Roxas, undersecretary for international economic relations. A Guingona appointee, Roxas will be replaced by Ambassador Delia Albert, former ambassador to Australia. Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Merlin Magallona has also submitted his courtesy resignation, but the President has not acted on it.

Asked if there would be a major revamp in diplomatic posts here and abroad, Baja said the President had "absolute power" to review all of Guingona's appointments.

Although government officials had been assured that Ms Macapagal would keep the job only temporarily, Baja said the President told them yesterday she was "not ready to nominate or appoint" a new DFA secretary. She said she was awaiting the results of the selection being conducted by a "search committee" that she had put up. She has not given the group a deadline.

Dropping Mike's name won't work at Customs

By A. Nocum

FIRST Gentleman Mike Arroyo's name cannot be dropped to transact business at the Bureau of Customs, and anyone who tries should be reported to the commissioner's office.

Customs chief Antonio Bernardo has issued a memorandum to this effect, amid talk that rice smuggling was on the rise and that this was being perpetrated by friends of the President's husband.

"If there is a major scandal, the First Gentleman is always being linked to it," Bernardo said in a telephone interview with the INQUIRER.

The customs chief said he issued the memo in response to a letter that Arroyo wrote to him over a month ago.

"He (Arroyo) said he had heard that some people were using his name to follow up some matters at the BOC," Bernardo said. "In fairness to him, he never once called me to negotiate anything."

Bernardo, who spearheaded an anti-smuggling summit of 15 key agencies yesterday, was reacting to reports that there were 27 rice smuggling groups operating in 12 regions in the country.

The reports said that about 800,000 metric tons of rice worth about P20 million—at a retail price of P1,125 per sack—had been smuggled into the country recently.

Customs Deputy Commissioner Ray Allas had been named in the reports as the First Gentleman's pointman.

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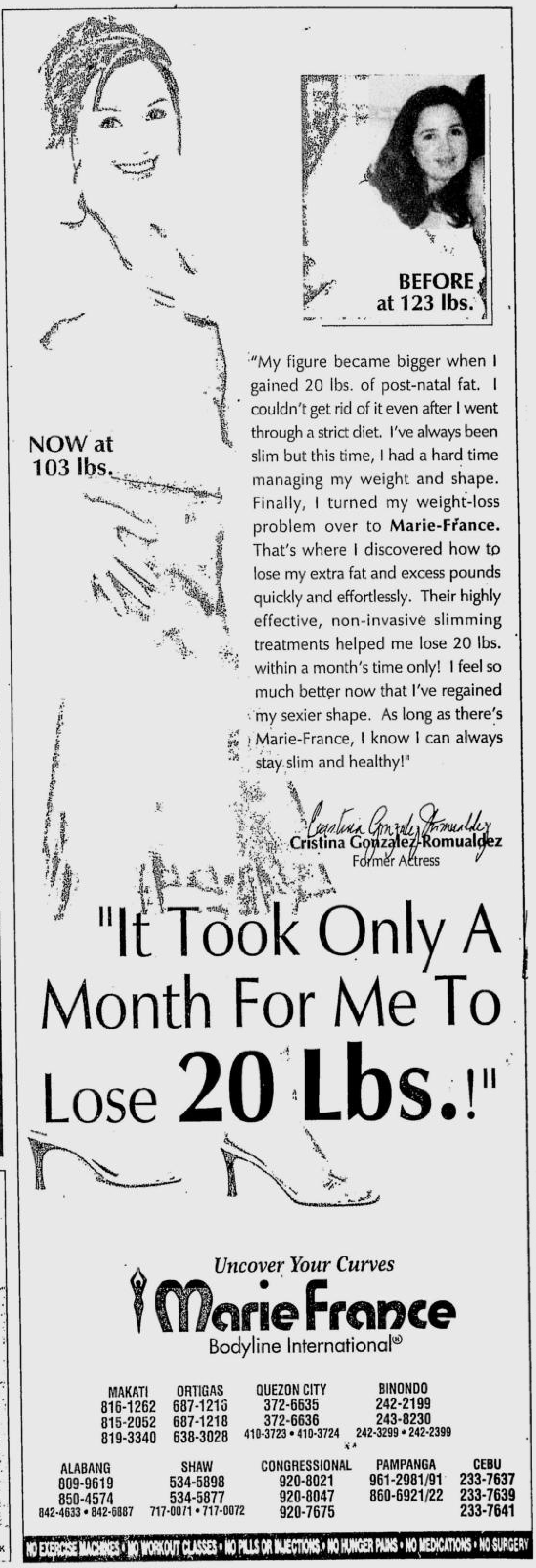
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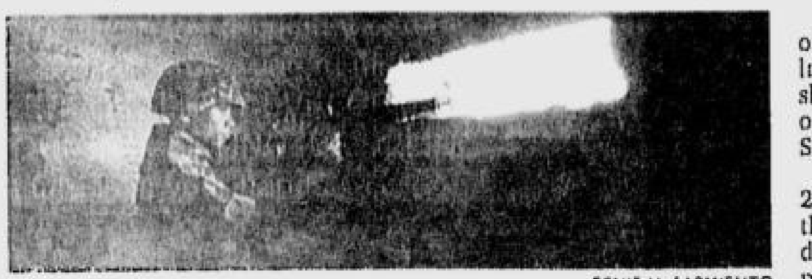
Beijing entrenching itself in Spratlys—military report



ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

A MARINE keeps a lonely vigil in one of several concrete bunkers in the disputed Kalayaan Islands in the Spratlys.

CHINA has been fortifying its claims in the Spratly island group and other potentially oil-rich areas in the South China Sea in recent years while placating other claimant countries with hopeful talk of a peaceful resolution, a confidential military report says.

China's activities make the conflicting claims involving five other nations the "greatest potential flash point for conflict in Southeast Asia," said the report, a copy of which was obtained by the Associated Press.

In the past four years, China has installed communications equipment on some of the disputed islands it occupies, organized a military unit for better surveillance and staged large-scale military exercises in the contested regions, said the 20-page report, prepared in March.

While China is cautious in buttressing its presence to avoid setting off a major confrontation that could undermine its economic interests, it appears ready to assert its claims by every means, the report said.

"China's actions are widely viewed as a double-edged diplomatic strategy aimed at furthering its strategic goals in the region," it said.

"Beijing uses negotiating tactics to keep neighboring governments hopeful of a peaceful compromise while the Chinese military continues to build up its permanent 'fortresses' in the Spratly Islands," it said.

Efforts to contact the Chinese Embassy in Manila yesterday for comment were unsuccessful.

The conflicting claims are focused on the Spratlys, a sprawling, barren archipelago believed to be atop vast undersea oil and gas deposits. Parts of the Spratlys are claimed by China, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam. The area straddles one of the world's busiest shipping routes and has many rich fishing grounds.

The Philippines and China also are contesting the Scarborough Shoal in rich fishing grounds off the western coast of the Philippines.

China and Vietnam dispute ownership of the Paracel islands further west.

After fortifying its structures in 1998 in Mischief Reef—part of the Kalayaan group of islands in the Spratlys claimed by the Philippines—China reportedly installed communication transmission stations on three occupied reefs, including one claimed by the Philippines.

The stations could transmit to Chinese navy patrol ships and contact a military ground command at China's South Sea Fleet headquarters in Zhangjiang, the report said.

In May 2000, China reportedly established a South Sea Marine Surveillance Force to safeguard its claims and identify marine and aquatic resources, according to the report. It formerly was only a division of the China Marine Surveillance Force, organized in 1998 to patrol inland seas and territorial waters, it said.

"Despite denials from Chinese officials, the creation of a surveillance force is apparently an offshoot of constant military activities of the other claimants in the Spratlys," the report said.

Last year, China reportedly built 20 to 24 100-meter navy vessels that could be used for patrols while disguised as customs boats, the report claimed.

China held large-scale military exercises last year from its southern Hainan island to the Paracels, including amphibious warfare drills, it said.

Chinese vessels have also been recently frequenting Scarborough Shoal, which Beijing claims as an ancient possession but the Philippines says lies in its 320-km exclusive economic zone, the report said.

In May 2001, two Chinese navy vessels and a survey and research ship were sighted there with two helicopters hovering overhead.

The dispute has sparked small clashes. Philippine patrol boats accidentally sank two Chinese fishing vessels they were chasing away from the shoal in 1999. The following year, a Philippine navy ship fired warning shots near two Chinese fishing boats.

Two months later, a Chinese fishing boat's skipper died when his crew exchanged gunfire with a Philippine Coast Guard ship. *AP*

RELIEVED GENERALS

No new posts for 7

By TJ Burgonio

THE SEVEN top police officials who were ordered relieved have not been offered "juicy" positions in the Philippine National Police, Director Virtus Gil, police director for personnel and records management, said yesterday.

If and when their relief takes effect, they will be placed on a "floating" status, Gil said.

The National Police Commission had ordered the relief of the seven officials for their alleged failure to curb illegal gambling. It later denied a motion for reconsideration from the seven.

In line with the Napolcom order, Gil said the PNP has requested the Commission on Elections to relieve the seven officials and recommended that they be placed at the Headquarters Support Service (HSS).

"If that will be approved, they will be relieved," he told reporters. "They won't go anywhere except to the Headquarters Support Service. And for the meantime, they won't have any positions."

Officials have said the relief of the seven was final, and would take effect once the Comelec approves the PNP request or, failing that, once the election ban on personnel movement is lifted on July 30.

Those ordered relieved were Deputy Director General Avelino Razon, Chief Superintendents Reynaldo Berroya, Domingo Reyes and Nicolas Pasinos, and Senior Superintendents Leonilo de la Cruz and Antonio Salvacion.

But PNP chief Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. said that the seven were being considered for future positions.

He admitted meeting some of them, but denied promising them directorial posts at the PNP national headquarters.

Gil said they might even be appointed to more important positions.

But Ebdane has not issued any orders yet regarding appointments for the seven.

"If there's any official who would know first-hand of such an appointment, it should be me as DPRM director," he said. "So far there's no such plan. Gen. Ebdane has not informed me of such a plan."

Gil has confirmed that the Comelec has approved the designation of Deputy Director General Clyde Fernandez as OIC, deputy chief for administration, the post vacated by Edbane.

Fernandez, the former head of the Philippine Center on Transnational Crime and a classmate of Ebdane at the Philippine Military Academy (Class of 1970), assumed the post yesterday, he said.

Gil also disclosed that the PNP has submitted a list of replacements for the relieved officials to the Comelec for clearance. He declined to name them, but said some of the names on the list came from directorial posts and regional and provincial offices.

"It's better to ask General Ebdane about it," he said.

Foreign laborers flocking to Israel despite turmoil

TEL AVIV, Israel—On the dusty corners of this seaside city, Africans mill about, longing for work. In boxy apartments, Filipinos care for the elderly and the ill. Romanians, Thais and other foreigners labor on construction sites and on farms.

In recent years, migrant laborers working for cheaper wages have replaced the Arab workers who once filled farms and lined up on the same street corners in search of work.

And despite near-constant political instability and security concerns, Tel Aviv hosts a city-within-a-city of hundreds of thousands of Africans, Asians, Europeans and Latin Americans looking for work.

"It's difficult, but you must be strong. Little by little," said Rolando Corpuz, a 35-year-old Filipino who cares for an Israeli man with Alzheimer's disease and sends money home to his wife and child.

Now the government is under pressure to get native Israelis back to work—more than 10 percent are unemployed—and has decided to expel migrant workers without permits. As many as 65 percent of the 300,000 foreign workers in Israel are here illegally, according to Kav La'Oved, a non-governmental workers advocacy group.

Police have rounded up more than 2,000 foreigners this year and deported nearly all of them, the group says.

Still, as the economy worsens, many employers want to keep the cheap labor pool, and as tensions with the Palestinians grow, many Israelis are happy to have foreigners replace Palestinians.

"It's better to have foreign workers," said Igal Yakov, 39, who works with several Romanians at his brother's construction crane company in Jerusalem. "The Palestinians are no good; they were working for us and then they made war."

According to United Nations figures, about 125,000 Palestinians crossed daily into Israel until the outbreak of a Palestinian uprising in September 2000 that has included dozens of deadly suicide bombings by Palestinians. Israel's subsequent closure to Palestinian workers and the ongoing fighting in the West Bank and Gaza Strip has all but destroyed the Palestinian economy.

Israeli curfews on Palestinian areas and blockades on roads have dealt a severe blow to employment, Palestinian Labor Minister Ghassan Khatib said recently.

"Right now the percentage of unemployed . . . in Palestinian society is 78 percent of the labor force," he wrote in an appeal to the international community. Before Israel's recent military incursions, the jobless figure stood at 44 percent, he said.

For the migrants to Israel, life—even apart from the danger of violence—is not easy.

"Sometimes you borrow from a friend to pay the rent. The next month, God willing, you pay the friend," said Thomas Owusu, 38, who left Ghana nine years ago and works as a house cleaner.

Corpuz, the Filipino, sits in a chair in the tiny one-room apartment he shares with a sister and five cousins, crammed with bunk beds barely wider than ironing boards. At his home-care job he earns $500 a month—enough to get by, but a salary that leaves little to send to his wife and five-year-old son Aaron in Manila.

Corpuz looks at a picture of his son. Soon, he'll start first grade. Maybe he'll go to college one day. Corpuz studied electrical engineering but couldn't afford to finish.

"I came here for his future," he said. "My only dream is for my son to have a degree."

Corpuz, like other foreigners, paid a job agency $5,000 to get to Israel. These agencies give Israeli employers a $1,000 cut in exchange for securing working papers for the migrants. The documents are issued to the employer, not to the worker. *AP*

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, July 17, 2002
15th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	**Is 10:5-7, 13-16**
Gospel:	**Mt 11:25-27**

On one occasion Jesus said, "Father, Lord of heaven and earth, I praise you, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned and revealed them to simple people. Yes, Father, this is what pleased you.

Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

Commentary

Wise and learned people always have a lot of things to say. They don't know how to keep silence. A diocese organized a seminar on "Empowering the Laity" with two speakers, a priest and a lay. The priest was the first to speak. When he finished his presentation there were only 15 minutes left for the lay person's talk. The priest did not "empower" the laity. Intelligent people are not excluded from the faith, of course, but it is the glory of God that faith should not seem to be the privilege of the wise and the learned. There were in Palestine at the time some wise people and many others who pretended to be so, but they were rarely seen among the disciples of Jesus. "If you talk, the Word will remain silent," said Tauler.

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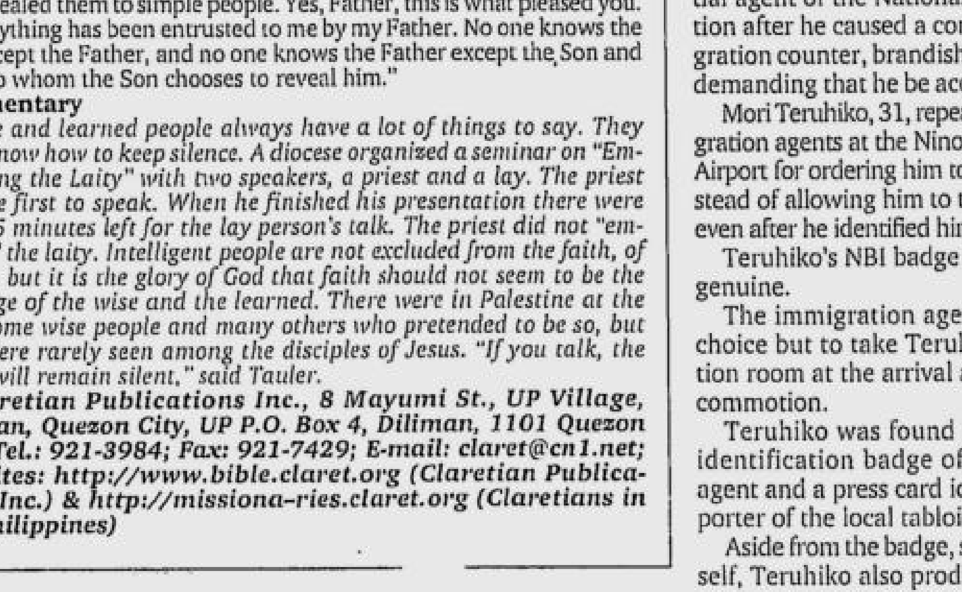

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Japanese 'NBI agent' banned

By Norman Bordadora

IMMIGRATION authorities yesterday refused entry to a Japanese claiming to be a confidential agent of the National Bureau of Investigation after he caused a commotion at the immigration counter, brandishing an NBI badge and demanding that he be accorded VIP treatment.

Mori Teruhiko, 31, repeatedly shouted at immigration agents at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport for ordering him to stand in the queue instead of allowing him to take a "courtesy" route even after he identified himself as an NBI agent.

Teruhiko's NBI badge was later found to be genuine.

The immigration agents were left with no choice but to take Teruhiko to the interrogation room at the arrival area after he caused a commotion.

Teruhiko was found to be holding a valid identification badge of an NBI confidential agent and a press card identifying him as a reporter of the local tabloid, Alarma.

Aside from the badge, signed by Wycoco himself, Teruhiko also produced a mission order, similarly signed by the NBI director and designating him a confidential agent of the bureau.

A check of the NBI's list of confidential agents also confirmed that Teruhiko was indeed a volunteer agent.

The investigation also showed that Terihuko allegedly paid P40,000 to become a confidential agent, obtain an NBI badge and a mission order.

He therefore expected lenient and courteous treatment from other agents of the government.

As for his press card, Terihuko said he paid P3,000 to become an "international correspondent" of Alarma.

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Digest by R B

Comelec to focus on voters' list cleanup

By Armand N. Nocum

ABALOS sidesteps Photokina issue.

COMMISSION on Elections officials have agreed that the voters' list has to be cleaned up but opted to sidestep the thorny issue of whether or not to revive the controversial Photokina deal.

Following their assessment of Monday's barangay and youth elections, Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. and commissioners Luzviminda Tancangco and Resurreccion Borra said only a clean-up of the voters' list would stop the problems during the recent polls from recurring in 2004.

The plan for a general listing is to be submitted to Congress next week.

Monday's barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections were marred by confusion and a proliferation of flying voters. Legitimate voters could not find their names, while others voted many times over.

At least 1,000 candidates were disqualified from standing for the barangay elections after it was found that their names did not even appear in the computerized voters' list (CVL).

Tancangco said that at least 1,000 names were found to be those of flying voters in Laguna, a situation likely to have been replicated in many parts of the country.

Tancangco, a member of the Comelec's modernization committee, said the poll body would need a credible software that can read fingerprints to safeguard against tampering and duplication of names in the voters' list.

But unlike before where discussions on sanitizing the CVL centered on the failed Photokina Marketing Corporation (PMC) deal, Abalos and Tancangco opted to confine the discussions to obtaining the software.

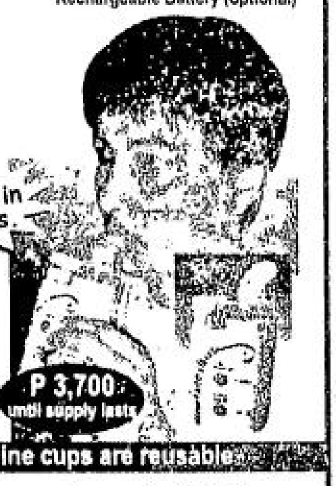
It was Tancangco's Voters' Registration and Identification System (VRIS) project, which was to have been carried out by Photokina, that is believed to have caused the split between her and former Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo.

Benipayo, who brought the matter to court, said that while the Comelec was only allowed to spend P1.2 billion for poll modernization, the VRIS contract was awarded to Photokina at a cost of P6.5 billion.

Borra said the poll body would have to wait for the Supreme Court to rule on the issue before implementing it.

Tancangco said that while the Comelec was looking at "pending projects," she said the Comelec may rent the hardware needed for the computerization and cleaning up of the voters' list.

Abalos said that instead of talking about the hardware, it was more important to concentrate on putting the CVL in order to avoid massive fraud occurring in the 2004 elections.



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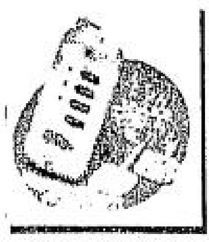

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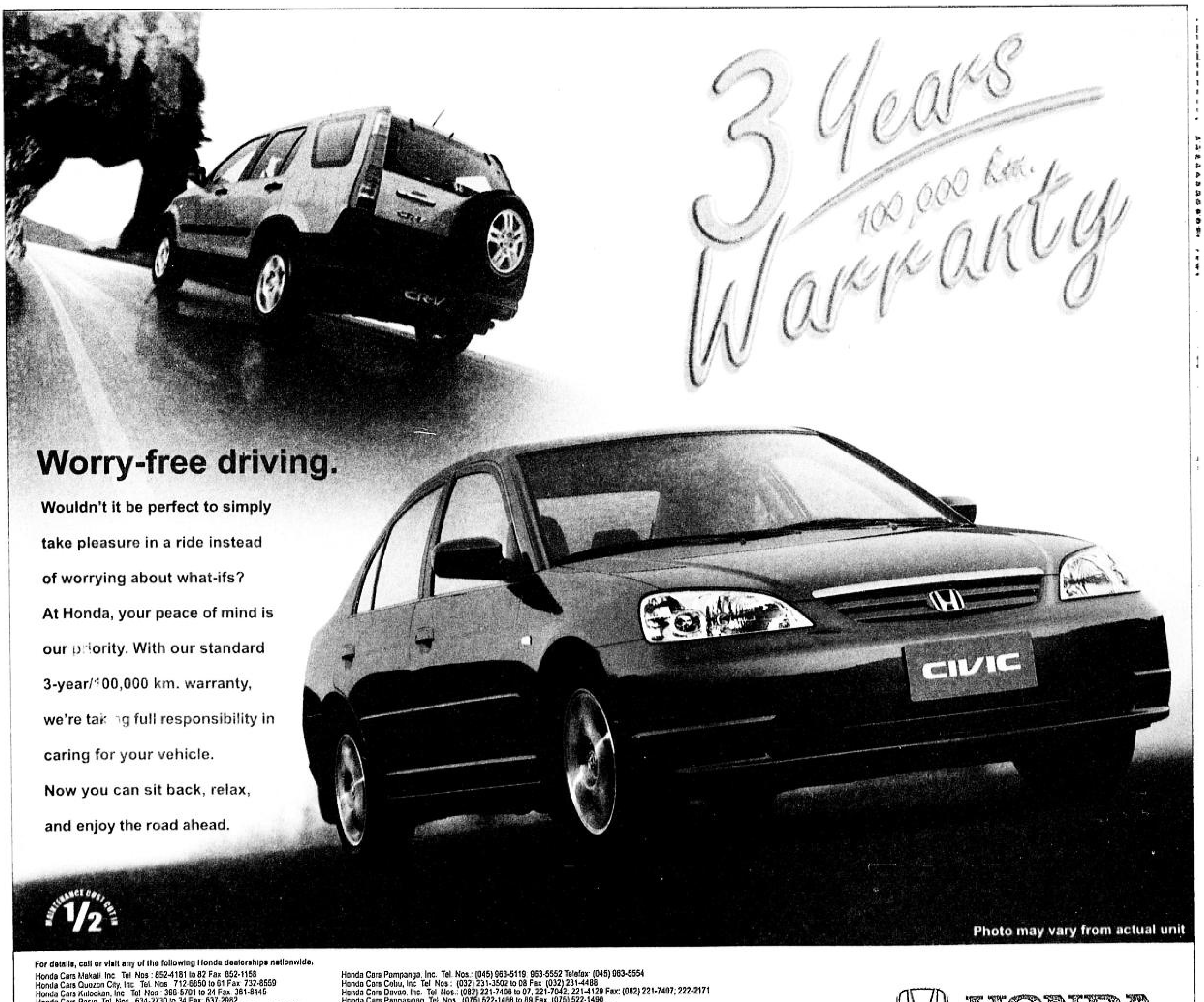

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HONDA

GMA: Only communists don't support me

From page A1

Mamamayang Pilipino (Kompil) II, asserting the civil society group that Estrada's interior secretary, Ronaldo Puno, and legislative liaison officer Jimmy Policarpio, have no place in her administration.

Eleven Kompil II convenors held a dialogue with Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo and six other Cabinet officials in Malacañang on Monday.

Kompil II, an alliance of civil society groups, and the Council for Philippine Affairs (Copa) are against the reported entry of Puno, Policarpio, former Press Secretary Ricardo Puno and opposition Sen. Blas Ople into the administration.

Kompil II leaders have asked the President not to appoint Ople as foreign secretary, saying the senator tried to suppress crucial evidence against Estrada at the former President's impeachment trial.

But Kompil II said it would respect Ms Macapagal's decision. The President yesterday said she had not yet made a formal offer to Ople.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said the administration gave a "wrong impression" that it held a dialogue with civil society when it met with groups such as the Kompil II.

"It was a dialogue with people who are pro-government," Ocampo said.

Cracks

Cracks in Kompil II showed after it expressed its continued support for Ms Macapagal.

Akbayan acting president Ric Reyes said the group was not sold on Kompil II's statement that it "has not withdrawn support from the government's reform agenda."

"We are critical of the administration from the outset," Reyes said, adding that Akbayan rejected the administration's medium-term development plan from the start.

Akbayan also disputed Kompil II's reason why the so-called "Estrada henchmen" should not join the administration. Reyes said Akbayan agreed with the rest of Kompil II that the likes of the Puno brothers and Policarpio did not deserve to be given government posts.

He said Akbayan's opposition to Ople as foreign secretary was not based on the senator's personality.

"Who cares if he's the one appointed? The (President's foreign) policy is out and out pro-United States. So, whoever sits (as foreign secretary) will just toe the line," Reyes said.

Reyes said Akbayan felt bad that it was left out of Kompil II's dialogue with Cabinet officials on Monday.

He said Akbayan "didn't really know anything" about the dialogue.

Reyes said there was no formal meeting among all Kompil member-organizations to discuss the position they would relay to the President.

No consultation

He said Akbayan was not consulted about the statement that was issued on behalf of the entire alliance.

Reyes said though that Akbayan was not calling for Ms Macapagal's resignation as there was no one acceptable to the group who could replace her right now.

The President said she needed civil society to be constructive. "As I've said, in a strong republic civil society must be vibrant. Their swords should turn into hammers to build rather than to destroy. That's their job," she said.

In a radio interview early this year, Ms Macapagal called Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran a communist after the veteran labor leader accused her of condoning high power rates.

Like Beltran, Copa spokesperson Boy Saycon remained persona non grata to Ms Macapagal even though he had apologized at a Mass at the Edsa Shrine on Monday for having offended her.

Asked if she had plans to talk to Saycon again, the President replied: "He's not asking for an appointment." Ms Macapagal had called Saycon a "termite" for supposedly seeking her downfall.

No resolution

Ocampo said the Mass at the Edsa Shrine was not able to resolve the conflict between the President and her former allies belonging to people's organizations.

"It was a religious event . . . no dialogue was held (between the two sides)," said Ocampo, who attended the Mass together with Beltran.

Ocampo said the "tame statements" that came out after the Mass were "out of respect to Bishop Socrates Villegas."

"Knowing Boy Saycon, it doesn't mean that he will stop talking," he said in a phone interview.

Ocampo said that before the Mass he and other members of people's organizations led by Copa had a get-together in a restaurant where they discussed their opposition to the administration's plan to recruit the services of former Estrada officials.

ELECTRICITY PRICE WATCH

POWER RATES HAVE STARTED TO DECLINE as President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo implements her 10-Point Plan to reduce electricity rates that would give relief to electric consumers.

One of her 10-Point Plan is to:

- OPTIMIZE THE UTILIZATION OF GENERATION CAPACITY TO MINIMIZE POWER GENERATION COSTS

Why does the under-utilization of power generating capacity increase the cost of electricity?

The recent Asian financial crisis weakened our economy affecting the demand for power and consequently resulted in the under-utilization of some power plants.

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The take-or-pay provisions in the IPP contracts form part of the fixed liabilities the National Power Corp. and the distribution utilities owed to the IPPs. These in return are reflected in the end-consumers electricity bill through the PPA.

How do we then maximize the use of this generating capacity?

Offering special price incentives to large commercial and industrial users has been identified as one of the ways to stimulate demand for power and dispose of our excess generating capacity.

Aside from this, there is a need to carefully study the utilization mix of NPC-owned and privately-owned power plants to reduce the fixed liabilities and fully utilize our power generating capacity.

How can we ensure optimal use of these power plants?

Re-deployment of the Under-utilized Power Plants
This will allow the transfer of under-utilized power barges and relocation of expiring land-based power plants located in Luzon to areas where there are inadequate supply of electricity such as in small islands.

Expansion of Interconnection Systems
The capacity expansion of the Leyte-Cebu submarine interconnection link to allow excess power in Luzon to be used in the Visayas islands.

Upgrade of the Transmission System
Increasing the transmission capacity, by upgrading the operating voltage of overland transmission networks and/or increasing the carrying capacity of submarine cable systems, will help remove transmission bottlenecks and allow a wide sharing of capacity reserves among the major grids.

Independent Review of the Power Dispatch Operations
Part of the efforts to make sure that the dispatching of capacity is done in a fair and efficient manner is to open up the process for review by independent third parties. To date, the Department of Energy (DoE) has engaged the services of a third party to study the dispatch system. The DoE is hopeful that the results of the study will further contribute to the lowering of electricity rates.

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Poll violence latest count: 87 dead, 45 injured

From page A1

and a ballot box, and discovery of ready-made ballots.

Despite the violence, President Macapagal-Arroyo hailed Monday's vote as "generally peaceful."

In a radio address a day after the balloting, the President thanked Filipinos for "our generally peaceful elections."

She said the authorities were "satisfied with its outcome and the way it was conducted. I hope the postponed balloting in some areas would be held peacefully as well."

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) has set for Saturday the barangay and SK elections postponed in some areas in Metro Manila, but said those in the provinces would be deferred until the floods shall have subsided.

Comelec had earlier postponed elections in Valenzuela City, covering 15 barangays; Malabon, 12; Navotas, 7; Las Piñas, 4; and Quezon City, 3.

Elections in some 300 barangays in the provinces, mostly in Luzon, particularly in Pampanga, have also been postponed because of floods.

Camiling said a failure of elections was declared in 17 barangays in Regions 5, 7, 12 and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) due to massive protests, intervention of local officials, and burning of ballot boxes.

The barangays were in General Luna, Quezon; Buenavista, Bohol; Pigcawayan, Cotabato; Mlang, Cotabato; Midsayap, Cotabato; Sultan sa Barongis, Maguindanao; Parang, Sulu; Maimbung, Sulu and Poona Piagapo, Lanao del Norte.

Camiling said the elections were suspended in Barangay Bato-bato, Indanan, Sulu due to the presence of armed men.

Teacher's son shot

In Guimba, Nueva Ecija, a losing candidate for barangay chair shot and killed a son of a schoolteacher during a fight after the counting of votes was completed on Monday night.

The teacher, Zenaida Geronimo, who was a poll chair in a precinct in Barangay Manacsac, was wounded. Police identified the victim as Dennis Geronimo, 29.

Reports said the suspect, Vicente Fernando Jr., went to the precinct questioning Geronimo about the conduct of voting in the precinct.

Dennis, who was in the area waiting for his mother to finish her election duty, interceded, resulting in an altercation between him and Fernando.

Police said Fernando suddenly pulled out a gun and fired at Dennis. Fernando escaped.

Ballots snatched

In Abra, a man in San Juan town snatched 55 filled-out ballots during the counting in a precinct in Barangay Namit-ingan on Monday.

Senior Supt. Arturo Quilop, Abra police director, said the suspect went to Precinct 14-A in Namit-ingan at about 7:30 p.m. and took the ballots from the teachers.

Election officials said no winner was proclaimed in the village because the remaining 55 ballots that the suspect took could change the results.

Conrado Turqueza and his brother Loreto were running for the position of village chair.

Conrado, the reelectionist chair, was leading Loreto by 33 votes when the ballot snatching happened.

Abducted at Glorietta

In Makati, a certain retired Army Maj. De la Cruz, a barangay chair, was abducted at the Glorietta mall on Monday, and was tortured by men believed to be his political rivals.

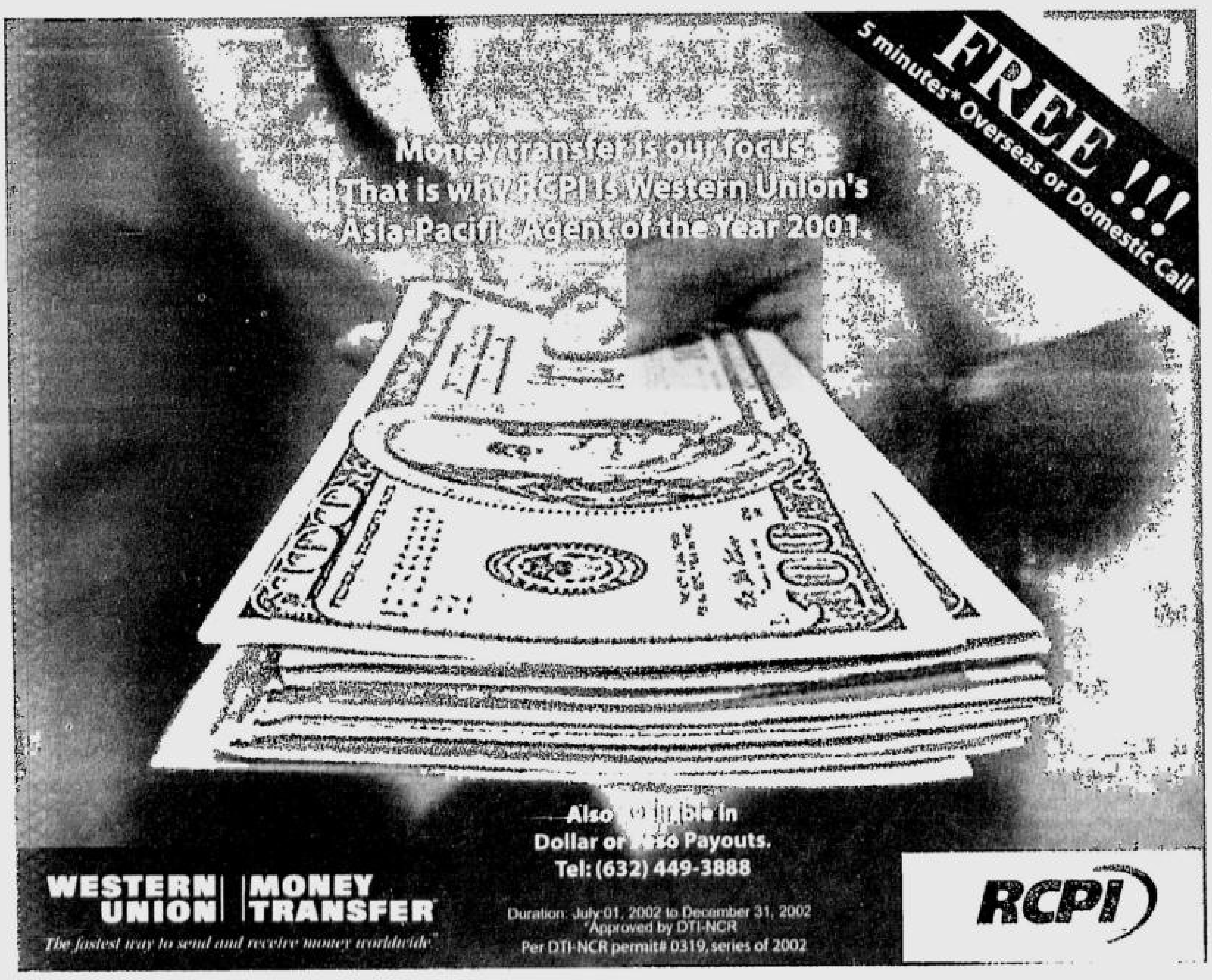
De la Cruz, chair of Barangay Southside in Fort Bonifacio, Makati, had escaped and was brought to a hospital, Camiling said.

In Jolo, government forces moved in yesterday in armored vehicles to quell post-election fighting that left three people dead.

Jawlkal Palawi, who was leading in the count for barangay chair, was shot dead along with two companions near Pandami town late Monday, said Jolo military chief Col. Romeo Tolentino.

Fighting also erupted yesterday between rival clans contesting the elections in the Jolo town of Indanan.

Hundreds of residents have fled the fighting but it was not clear if there were any casualties. Among those locked in battle were fighters loyal to detained former ARMM Gov. Nur Misuari, according to Tolentino. ***With reports from Armand N. Nocum in Manila; Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; and AFP***



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RCPI

Group defends . . .

From page A1

scattering garbage over its battlements and carving their initials into its ancient bricks. Villagers cart away pieces to make sheep corrals and developers are leasing land at the wall's foot to build tract homes, a group set up to protect the monument warned Tuesday.

"The wall is already in grave, grave danger," said William Lindesay, an Englishman who in 1987 hiked along 2,470 kilometers of the wall, about one-third of its total length.

Hoping to beat back the threat, Lindesay announced the formation of a conservation alliance to protect the most spectacular sections of the wall located around Beijing.

There are 629 kilometers of the wall within the municipal limits of China's capital. But only a dozen or so kilometers have been restored.

Lindesay wants other parts maintained in their current weathered state and to safeguard spectacular vistas around the wall from what he called "view pollution."

With the backing of Beijing's Cultural Heritage Administration and Unesco, the UN cultural organization, Lindesay's International Friends of the Great Wall plans to hire local farmers as rangers to pick up garbage and make sure bits of wall aren't carried off.

They will place signs along trails leading up to the wall reminding visitors not to smoke, litter or otherwise disturb the environment. They eventually hope to lobby local governments to tarnish the wall's natural setting.

Beijing's legislature has already agreed to consider a draft law on preserving the wall, he said.

China's best known historical landmark stretches from the seacoast east of Beijing to Gansu province in the western desert.

Its earliest parts were built in the second century B.C. by the emperor Qinshi Huangdi, who connected existing battlements as he conquered his rivals and created the first unitary Chinese state.

More modern sections around Beijing, that most familiar to visitors, date from the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) and have been restored since the Communist Party took power in 1949.

China boasts thousands of historical monuments from its 5,000-year history and hundreds of major archaeological finds are uncovered each year.

But funds and preservation know-how are stretched thin. That makes it even more important for nongovernmental citizens' groups to participate in preservation, Lindesay said.

While the wall is already "considerably damaged," it isn't feasible or desirable to continue the rebuilding done over the past decades, said Kong Fanzhi, deputy director of Beijing's Bureau of Cultural Relics.

"We want the 90 percent of the Beijing wall that is in its natural state to stay that way," Kong told Associated Press Television News. "We want to prevent any rebuilding—and any new buildings in the area around the wall. We don't want a newly

Cardeño says Golez, Saycon did Baron in

By Donna S. Cueto

THE PRIMARY suspect in the killing of self-styled military spokesman Baron Cervantes told the Department of Justice yesterday that National Security Adviser Roilo Golez and Council on Philippine Affairs spokesman Pastor "Boy" Saycon were behind Cervantes' murder.

In yesterday's preliminary investigation into the killing, suspected mastermind Police Supt. Rafael Cardeño's lawyer, Homobono Adaza, submitted his client's counter-affidavit which implicated Golez and Saycon in last New Year's Eve killing of Cervantes.

Cardeño remains in hiding but in his affidavit, he cited an alleged report by police Director Nestorio Gualberto, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, that said Golez and Saycon, who had "employed'" Cervantes as an "asset", were "responsible for the planning and execution of his killing."

Cardeño said the Gualberto report which implicated Golez and Saycon had been "suppressed and hidden to (sic) the public and prosecution, which amounts to suppression of evidence."

Aside from Adaza, the absent Cardeño was represented by his lawyer-brother, Reynaldo Cardeño.

In his counter-affidavit, Cardeño denied again, as he persistently has while in hiding, that he was involved in the plan to kill Cervantes.

He said Golez and Saycon should be investigated for the murder instead.

"(Golez) had employed the deceased, like Mr. Saycon, and it was established that the deceased had delivered to the latter's house (before he was killed) classified documents intended for Secretary Golez," Cardeño said.

He said Cervantes had an appointment with Saycon and was waiting for him when he was gunned down outside a convenience store in Las Piñas City on Dec. 31, 2001.

But Senior State Prosecutor Theodore Villanueva said the DOJ would have to study Cardeño's notarized counter-affidavit before accepting it.

The investigating panel gave the Cervantes family lawyer, Leonard de Vera, five days to submit his reply to Cardeño's counter-affidavit.

The next hearing on the case is on July 22 at the DOJ.

Villanueva said that in the meantime, the DOJ panel has "provisionally accepted" Cardeño's affidavit.

The panel also dismissed a motion filed by Cardeño's lawyers yesterday seeking the panel's inhibition from the preliminary investigation.

Cardeño claimed he was with his family in Biñan, Laguna celebrating New Year's when he heard the news that Cervantes had been gunned down.

Police had since arrested Joseph Mostrales who tagged Cardeño as the mastermind in Cervantes' killing.

Erap lawyers rap Ani over probes

By Volt Contreras

DAYS away from retirement, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto looks unlikely to have a smooth exit after the camp of deposed President Joseph Estrada has raised a new issue against him.

Estrada's court-appointed lawyers yesterday asked the Sandiganbayan to cite Desierto for contempt for placing a number of peArsons whose names came up during the Estrada trial under preliminary investigation.

They said it was "highly improper and irregular" for the Ombudsman to conduct preliminary investigations on Lucena "Baby" Ortaliza, Anton Prieto and Bong Pineda just because prosecution witnesses had mentioned their names in connection with the "juetenggate" scandal and the "Jose Velarde" bank account.

Prieto was Estrada's presidential adviser on the Bicol region while Pineda is an alleged jueteng kingpin in Central Luzon.

Ortaliza, meanwhile, was identified by several bank officials as the woman who deposited checks to the Velarde account allegedly maintained by Estrada.

Defense lawyer Prospero Crescini argued that an investigation initiated at this point in the trial "already assumes the truth of the testimony" implicating Ortaliza, Prieto and Pineda in the Estrada plunder case.

Crescini said the court "should first determine the truth and the materiality of the testimonies" of the witnesses before the Ombudsman ordered the preliminary investigation of the three.

"Strangely, though, one Bonito Singson, the brother of Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, who was tagged by a witness as a collector of jueteng, has never been placed under investigation," the lawyer said. It was the testimony of former Ilocos Sur governor Singson before Congress that started the chain of events that led to Estrada's ouster and trial on plunder charges.

Crescini said "injustice" was being committed against Estrada with the preliminary investigations since these could be a way to coerce Ortaliza, Prieto and Pineda into testifying against the former president.

Chief Justice undergoes stroke-preventing surgery

By Donna S. Cueto

CHIEF Justice Hilario Davide Jr. yesterday underwent an operation called carotid endarterectomy, which former President Fidel V. Ramos had undergone in 1996.

Ismael G. Khan Jr., chief of the Supreme Court public information office, said the operation was something Davide "had long delayed in favor of his official functions."

"The chief is expected to report back to work in a few days," Khan said.

A carotid endarterectomy is performed to prevent the occurrence of a stroke. The doctor removes fatty deposits from one of the carotid arteries in the neck that supply blood to the brain.

Carotid artery problems become more common as people grow older. The disease process that causes the buildup of fat in the artery walls is called atherosclerosis, popularly known as "hardening of the arteries."

A team led by renowned heart surgeon Dr. Jorge Garcia performed the operation on Davide. Garcia was the same doctor who performed the operation on Ramos.

Davide's operation took less than an hour.

Khan refused to say what hospital Davide was in.

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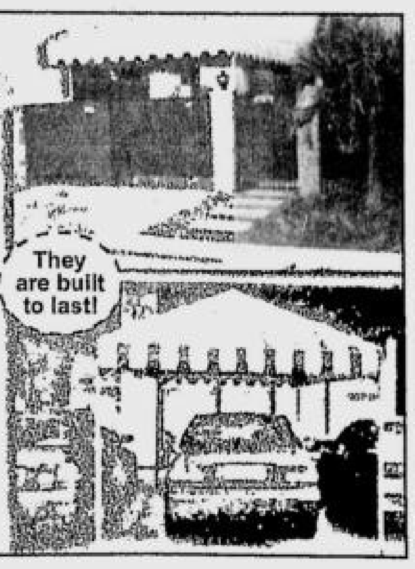

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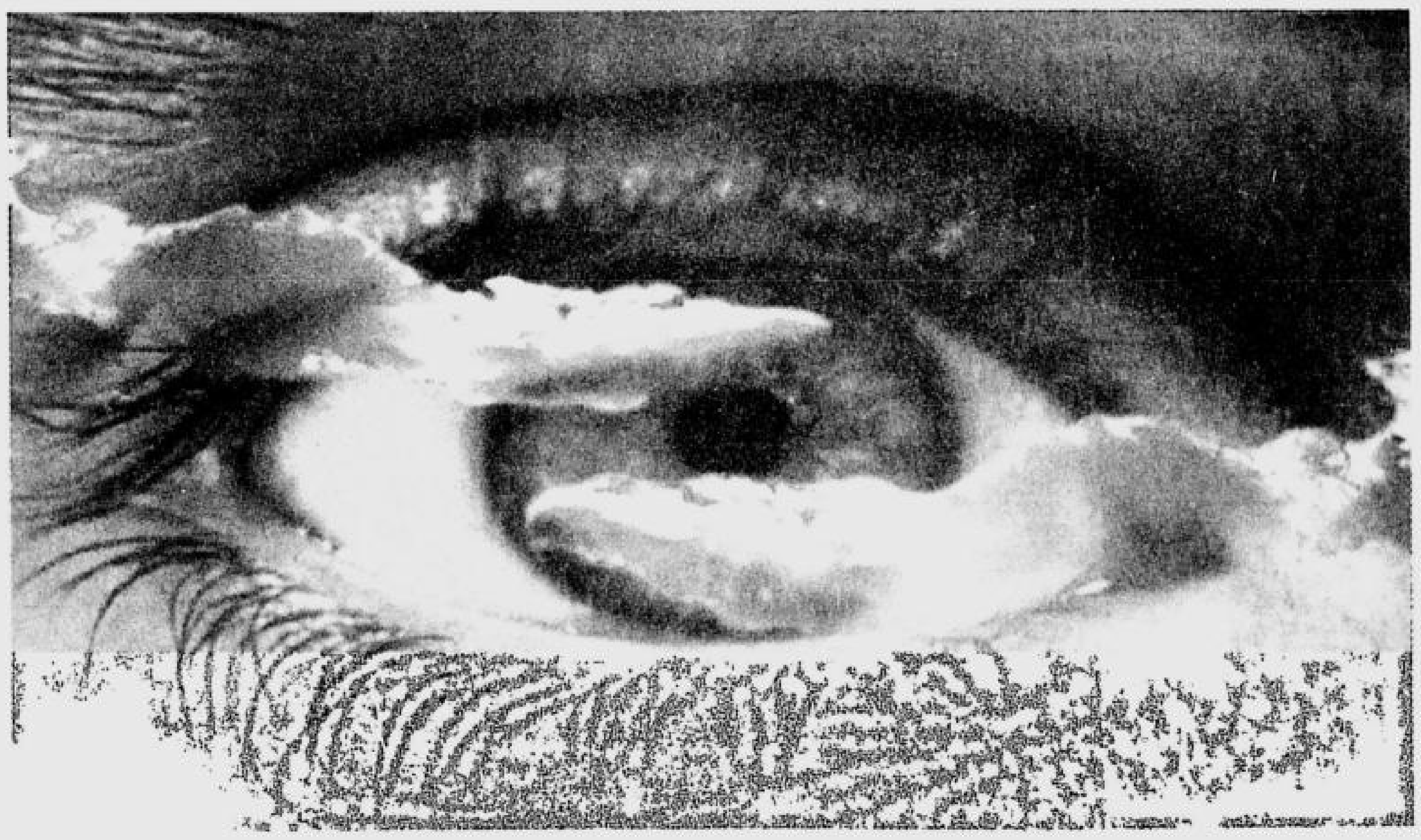

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OPINION

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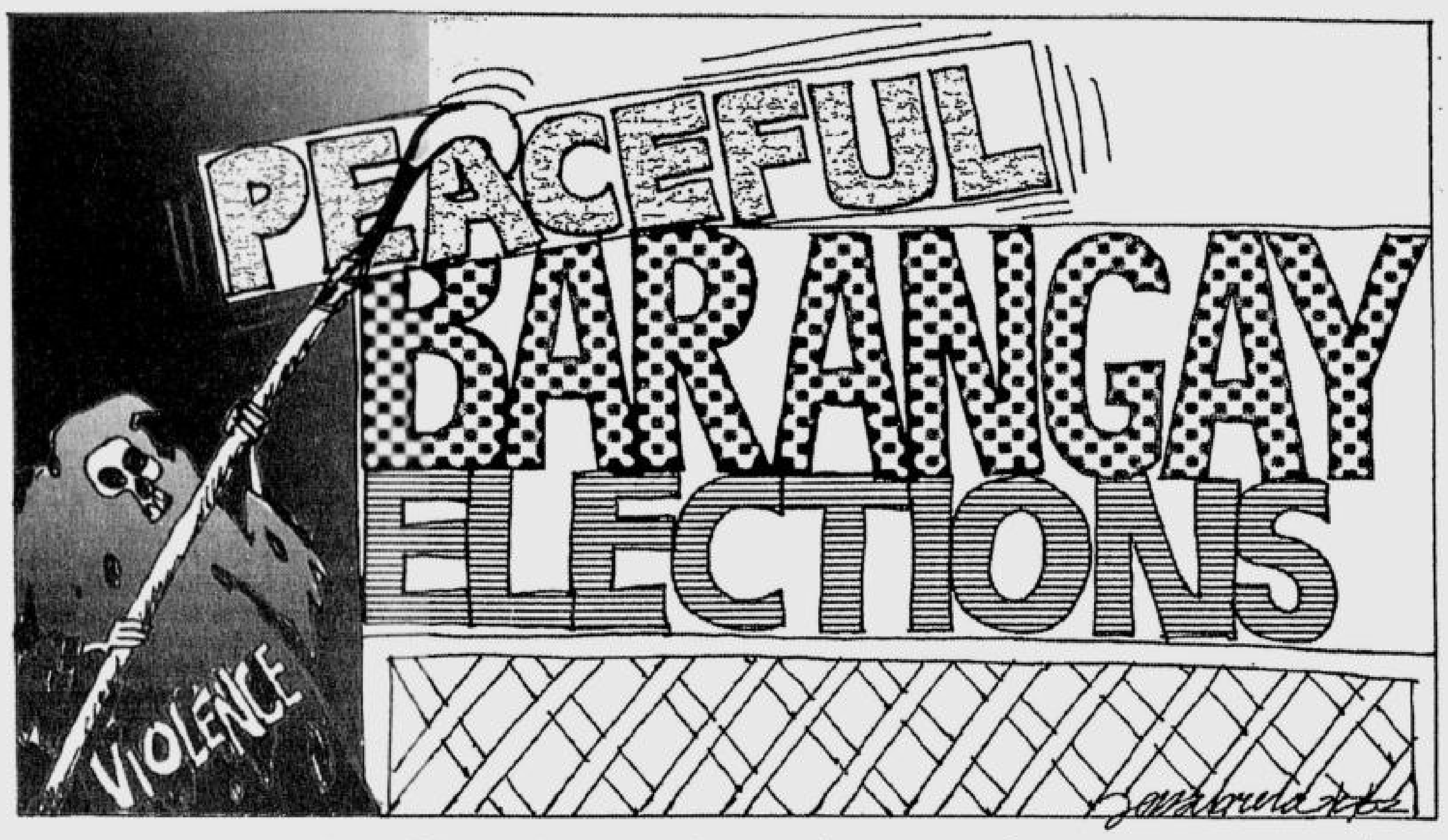


Business as usual

EDITORIAL

RECENT surveys said Filipinos are growing disenchanted with the way democracy works. And the voters in Metro Manila seem to have confirmed this by staying away from the voting precincts last Monday.

Still, it may be too early to be singing a requiem for democracy. No doubt, the figures are alarming. Only 40 percent of registered voters in the metropolis cast their votes in Monday's barangay elections, according to Chair Benjamin Abalos of the Commission on Elections. Unfortunately Abalos didn't say how many voted in the May 2001 elections so that a more accurate comparison could be made, but the turnout in the metropolis could not have strayed too far from the national average of 85 percent. Meaning half of those who voted in Metro Manila last year failed to do so this year.

Are we then to conclude that the majority of Filipinos have given up on democracy and its processes? Maybe not.

Firstly, Monday was not the best day for holding elections. Manila had just gone through 10 days of heavy rains and floods, and city dwellers were too preoccupied with repairing the damage wrought by the calamity to bother with village politics.

Secondly, no matter how often it is stressed that barangay officials play a central role in the life of the community, voters will still feel they have a much greater stake in helping determine who gets to sit in city hall, in Congress or in Malacañang.

Thirdly, the general apathy toward the polls that was evident in the metropolis cannot be said to have prevailed nationwide. Voters were reported to have come in large numbers in many places in the Visayas. Thus, at the end of the day, we can expect the turnout nationwide to compare favorably with those of other elections past.

Monday's elections were, in fact, little different from any other electoral exercise we have had. There were voters who could not find their names in the precincts where they had registered, and there were those who tried to vote where they should not be voting. There were candidates who bought votes for as low as P5 per in some provinces and for as high as P1,000, in the case of some candidates in Quiapo allegedly bankrolled by drug lords.

And of course, no Philippine election would be complete without violent clashes and killings. As of election day, Abalos counted 25 dead in election-related incidents. The police reported a higher number of fatalities at 38, but the military task force in charge of election peacekeeping put the total at 75. Yesterday the death toll rose to 82, and the count isn't done yet. In comparison, a day after the polls last year, authorities counted 77 deaths from election-related violence.

And as sure as the cheating, the vote buying and the killings that attend our elections, government officials have declared the electoral exercise a great success. Abalos has said the elections were "generally, relatively peaceful." And President Macapagal-Arroyo, who appointed him to the post, also thinks the government did a good job in keeping peace and order during the latest electoral exercise.

Eighty-two people are dead—and still counting—but our highest officials congratulate themselves for holding orderly and peaceful elections. That's how well violence and killings have become accepted as part and parcel of the electoral process, just like vote buying and cheating. No wonder the number of victims of election violence hardly goes down.

This could be one more reason a growing number of Filipinos doubt if democracy is working in this country.

A tough battle

FOREIGN COMMENT

US President George W. Bush, attacked the financial scandals that are weakening Wall Street and denounced the company executives accused of fraud as "men without ethics" just like Osama bin Laden's terrorists.

Seven months after the Enron scandal, the White House has noticed the opening of dangerous breach on the internal front: Bush's prestige is at risk if he is not capable of restoring Wall Street's credibility.

For Bush the priority is to hunt down those who harm the community; the Democrats instead want better laws to safeguard citizens against fraud.

The risk is that for the White House, Wall Street will become a tougher battle field than what the Afghan mountains of Tora Bora have been for the US Marines.

La Stampa (Turin, Italy)

More on the floods and garbage of Metro Manila

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

GUESS who were happiest when the responsibility and funding of controlling floods were taken away from the Department of Public Works and Highways and transferred to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority? The DPWH officials of course. They dropped it so fast they refuse to even talk about it.

For controlling floods is as impossible a dream as King Canute ordering the waves to stop at his feet. Time and tide—and floods—bow to no man.

On second thought, MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando may be the best man to do it—with enough support from Malacañang and the people. (By the way, the flood tax tacked on to movie tickets has long been discontinued.) For garbage, which is the responsibility of Fernando, is one of the three main causes of floods, agreed the panelists at last Monday's Kapihan sa Manila: Public Works Assistant Secretary Salvador Pleyto, Director Antonio Sta. Elena of the National Capital Region and Mayors Amado Vicencio of Malabon and Toby Tiangco of Navotas. The other causes are of course the rains and the tide. Do you know that in Navotas and Malabon, the streets are flooded even when there is no rain? That's when the high tide comes in.

You must have seen the television footage and photographs of the huge mound of garbage that accumulated at the MacArthur Bridge, at the boundary of Valenzuela and Malabon, during the floods. Fernando said he would need at least 50 trucks to take that away. That's the garbage that clogs drainage pipes, creeks and streams, *esteros* and rivers and causes floods. People see waterways as a convenient place to dump garbage when it is not being collected. Collect the garbage promptly and the people will have nothing left to dump in the streams.

Mayor Vicencio said he has already relocated the squatters along the Tullahan-Tenejeros River and that his river aides arrest anybody who throws trash into the river.

So where is all that garbage in the river coming from?

From upstream, from Valenzuela and Quezon City, replied Vicencio. That is why the trash collected on the farther side of MacArthur Bridge. If the mayors of Valenzuela and Quezon City can stop their constituents from throwing garbage into the river, it would be free of garbage, Vicencio said.

Pleyto and Sta. Elena said it is not only Valenzuela and Quezon City. They said that their pumping stations everywhere are often clogged with garbage. Yet DPWH engineers are able to maintain them despite their old age and they have been able to drain floodwaters within hours. Contrary to the common impression that the DPWH is a failure in controlling floods, they said, it has been efficient. Compare the floods in Metro Manila with those in other places, Central Luzon for example. Metro Manila is now dry but Central Luzon is still flooded. The DPWH pumping stations made the difference. Remove the pumps and the floods would be much worse.

The two DPWH officials explained that the pumps start working when heavy rains start, even before the floods begin. The trouble is that the rains were just too much. The pumps could not keep up. Sta. Elena estimated that to keep the metropolis dry, it would need about four times the number of pumps it has now.

Mayor Tiangco said Navotas is reclaiming 10 hectares of fishpond with garbage in partnership with R-II Builders. (The polluted water of the rivers has killed all the fishponds in Navotas and Malabon and deprived the fishermen who eke out a living from the river, of a livelihood.) Contrary to reports, the dump is not illegal. (PDI, 7/10/02) It has no Environment Compliance Certificate (ECC) from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources but it has a permit from the Solid Waste Management Office, which is the same permit that the Montalban dump has, Tiangco said. It is not a sanitary landfill but a controlled dump, in the same category as the Montalban dump. The bottom of the pond is lined with clay so it is impervious to leachate. Sand and silt are dumped into it first, before fresh garbage is thrown in. Then it is covered with more soil.

The dikes around the pond, R-II said, would be widened and raised to serve as roads for the trucks and to prevent water and garbage from spilling out. It receives garbage not only from Navotas but also from Manila. It gets the garbage from the transfer station at Pier 18—where it is picked clean of recyclables by scavengers—and taken by barge along the coast to the mouth of the river in Bulacan and down to Navotas. R-II said it dredged part of the river to deepen it for the barges.

The dump is at least 4 kilometers from the nearest habitation, Tiangco said. The beauty of it is that no garbage trucks go through the narrow streets of Navotas. Everything goes to the dump by water and nobody is bothered.

When the 10-hectare pond is full, R-II will reclaim part of the foreshore area of Navotas, using the Japanese experience. Navotas is terribly short of land. Next to Pateros, it is the smallest municipality in land area in Metro Manila. There is no other place to get extra land but the sea, which is abundant beside Navotas.

The outer side of the reclaimed area will be a seaside boulevard linked to Roxas Boulevard going to Bulacan. If the top of the Malabon megadike (PDI, 7/12/02) is widened to add to the 5-meter strip along the riverbank already bought from their owners by the Malabon city government, Malabon and Navotas will have three additional roads to link them to Bulacan and Manila.

The question is when will that be?

Alternatives

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

ORLANDO Quevedo, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, says the Catholic Church will stand by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. It "does not see any realistic and nationally beneficial alternatives" to her. "Why should we continue to raise petty issues about her personality, her political mistakes as if she were Superwoman?" Certainly, Quevedo says, the Church will "not support any artificially created people power, trying to raise the banner of a contrived and artificially created national crisis."

Well, to begin with, Quevedo has a weird definition of "petty." A President who did nothing to deserve to be so forces a pillar of Edsa II, someone who had consistently taken a nationalist position in public life, voting against the US bases, voting against the VFA, and protesting the presence of American troops in this country, to resign as head of the Department of Foreign Affairs, and you call that a petty issue? A President who is the lucky beneficiary of an act of national heroism does so moreover simply to restore the houses of the very people Edsa II arose to put down, and you call that a petty issue?

Who wants Ms Macapagal to be a Superwoman? All people are asking is that she leave one or two things about Edsa II intact. No one is demanding that she live up to all the dreams of Edsa. Everyone is demanding that she does not betray all of them.

I don't know where Quevedo got this idea that people who want to air their grievances at Edsa want her ousted by another "Edsa." Except for Linda Montayre and some other batty groups who have thankfully receded from the landscape, I don't hear anyone saying that. What I hear them saying is that she should do her job. They have every right to demand it. They put her there. Not God, not the devil, and certainly not she herself.

In fact the Catholic bishops' inability to see any realistic and beneficial alternatives to Ms Macapagal is not a reflection of the lack of them, it is merely a reflection of their blindness. Or pettiness. They can't see what's wrong with her simply because they are protecting an investment. Ms Macapagal thinks she owes her presidency to God and Jaime Cardinal Sin, whoever comes first. That is good enough for them.

I agree: No one should support an artificially created people power. But the bishops too have a weird definition of "artificially created." Any people power they cannot claim to have created—which is what they've done to the two "Edsas"—is, *ipso facto*, artificially created. I remember again Socrates Villegas' comments about the apparent sacrilege done to the Edsa Shrine by the unkempt and unshod last year by congregating there. You want contrived and artificial, you don't have to look very far. You have only to look at Villegas trying to do a "Cardinal Sin II" by playing the role of political broker.

But of course there are realistic and beneficial alternatives to our current rut. At the very least there is a realistic and beneficial alternative to ousting Ms Macapagal by people power, which is by not voting for her in 2004. Even more patently, there is a realistic and beneficial alternative to the way she is running government, which is for her to run government and not keep running for president. The latter is what she has been doing since she became the artificially created byproduct of Edsa II

I did say before that there is a very realistic and beneficial way Ms Macapagal can run the country, and that is by not running again. That is by using the three and a half years God and the people gave her as an act of grace to right wrongs, correct injustices, give this country the break it has never had. She does that and she can prosecute Erap without fear of his legions, showing only absolute integrity. She does that and she can unite the diverse factions pulling this country apart, being herself above the fray. She does that and she can stamp idealism, nobility and high-mindedness on this country's politics, proving she lives as she preaches.

There can be no fear that Erap or his protégés will come back again. This country has three and a half years of Enlightenment, why should it want to go back to the Dark Ages? If the Church were less petty and obsessed with looking out for itself, it would even now be using its influence on Ms Macapagal to try to persuade her to do that. On pain of hellfire, or withdrawal of "critical cooperation," whichever hurts more.

Quevedo forgets one crucial thing when he says there are no realistic and beneficial alternatives to Ms Macapagal. Which is that Ms Macapagal was supposed to have been our realistic and beneficial alternative to Erap. She does not show herself to be that, on the contrary, she shows herself to be no better than Erap—just as superficial, just as reckless, just as power-mad—and Erap will be back to haunt us as surely as Dracula is recomposed by acts of villainy. It is the attitude of agreeing to iniquity because we have no realistic and beneficial alternative to it that brings old iniquities storming back. Ms Macapagal does not show herself to be better than Erap, the people will not mind having Erap back.

The one thing that resurrected the Marcoses and their cronies was not their lawyers, it was the corruption in Cory Aquino's time. The one thing that will resurrect Erap and his cronies won't be his lawyers, it will be Ms Macapagal's heedless ambition. Those are the most powerful incantations of all. But you won't find them in the Tibetan Book of the Dead.

The irony of it all is that all of these efforts by Ms Macapagal to win a second term will come to naught anyway. She tries to do an Erap to win big like Erap, she won't win like Erap. Erap will win like Erap. Big.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Seductive, simplistic and dangerous shortcuts

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

MAYOR Rodrigo Duterte of Davao City stirred up a furor with his tough "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth" speech against crime at the anti-crime summit last July 9.

He said, "The intention of the criminals is to instill fear in their victims, and kill them. What would we do but kill them also." His speech was well-applauded by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and his audience. Public reaction, reflected in TV calls, was overwhelmingly in favor of his speech.

His speech was interpreted by human rights groups as a strong pitch for extra-legal execution in the style associated with former Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim and former Philippine National Police chief Panfilo Lacson (in the Kuratong Baleleng massacre).

Duterte denied he ever called for extra-legal executions as a method to solve law and order problems, and a review of his speech and the tapes confirms he never advocated that solution. However, Duterte is smart enough not going beyond the brink of being explicit. But those who have been exposed to tough talk associated with "salvaging," the message is clear enough to both criminals and law-abiding citizens.

Duterte's method has produced results. Crime incidence is low in Davao City. And in recognition of his anti-crime position, the President has asked Duterte to be her consultant on crime at a time when she is putting emphasis on crushing the kidnappings in Metro Manila, as a priority of her administration.

What Duterte said is less of a concern than the fact that it was well-applauded and has struck a wide resonance among citizens. The resonance reflects public frustration over endless campaigns launched by governments since the Marcos dictatorship to crush the crime syndicates—kidnapping and car theft being the most notorious cases—without appreciable results.

It reflects a note of despair over the ability of the police and the authorities to combat serious crimes which now include drug trafficking. Anyone in public authority, therefore, who demonstrates some success in curbing crime and instills fear among criminals comes off as a messiah of law and order.

Because lawful means and law enforcement authorities—either because of corruption or incompetence—have proved to be ineffective in combating criminal syndicates, citizens are driven to embrace tough, extra-judicial methods of killing criminals. They even find it acceptable that there is no sure-fire method of determining the criminals and that the innocent could be victims of an anti-crime pogrom carried out by overzealous anti-crime fighters like Duterte.

There are heavy costs to be paid for accepting uncluttered solutions to fight criminals, but it's alarming that those who applaud Duterte don't realize these. There would have been no Durtertes, Alfredo Lims and Panfilo Lacsons—as law and order champions—if law enforcement agencies are competent and less corrupt.

What the applause over Duterte's method signifies, apart from its popularity, is that it is a distant thunder clap of an approaching storm foreshadowing the public clamor for a strong man.

Law and order, national security and ending paralysis in a turbulent democracy have always been seductive themes of leaders with authoritarian inclination. We don't have to look far for models of a political climate that fostered the rise of authoritarian leadership in Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia.

When President Ferdinand Marcos laid the ground for the installation of authoritarianism, he exploited two themes—the deteriorating law and order and the threat of the Communist rebellion. In his call for a "democratic revolution," Marcos said the country was in the midst of a crisis and was caught between the conflict between the Right ("lawless elements" composed of criminal gangs) and the Left (posed by the social unrest fanned by the communists).

Marcos postured himself as the man in the middle standing between the two extremes, and the savior of the nation on the edge of collapse. This call was most resonant to the middle class which was terrorized by and felt helpless over the rising criminality and which was equally terrified at the prospects of a communist takeover.

As a consequence, the middle class, the business community and the very rich were worried less about the solution of authoritarianism and the shortcuts against criminals than they were about an authoritarian regime that seemed so attractive at the time in the context of the wave of authoritarianism in Asia and Latin America.

The seductive call for shortcuts in combating crime, however, does not come from the political leadership but from a local official whose message is a reminder that national leaders ought to address the crime menace effectively, otherwise civil institutions would be undermined by those who offer more forceful but less than legal solutions to problems of crime and even political gridlock. There are already politicians who are waiting in the wings to ride on the platform of law and order to gain political power. In this respect, President Macapagal is not offering strong leadership within democratic methods.

I am not worried about Duterte but many are disturbed by the implication of the development of a favorable public opinion for extra-legal executions and even political shortcuts to end political impasse and national paralysis.

Power to the barangay

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

TWO days ago, voters trooped to the polls to choose leaders for the most basic unit of our democracy: the barangay. These days, the barangay council and officials take charge of most neighborhood concerns: peace-and-order, basic services, basic justice and conflict resolution, illegal drugs, waste disposal, health problems, education, even sports, cultural and religious activities.

Hard as it is to believe, given that the barangay plays such a big role in the nation's life today, the idea of village governance is relatively new. It took national government officials, including legislators, some time before they could wrap their minds around the idea that village folk had the capacity to run the affairs of their small communities. It was even more difficult for them to buy the idea that "simple" barrio folk could think and decide for themselves, even if they were unlettered and ignorant, and directly elect their local leaders, instead of having them appointed by "higher-ups."

So what made them believe it was possible to build democracy from the grassroots? The answer is fairly simple: it was demonstrated in numerous experiments in "self-governance" of a pioneering Philippine volunteer organization, the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement or PRRM. Founded in 1952, the PRRM celebrates its 50th year today, marking a half century of, to paraphrase portions of the movement's "credo": living among the people, learning from them, working with them, teaching by showing and learning by doing.

* * *

PRRM was founded as part of an effort of "reconstruction" after the devastation of World War II, but it began life in the midst of another war, the Huk uprising that had its roots in peasant restiveness against centuries-old injustices based on a feudal system of power and land ownership.

It began, as writer Butch Dalisay puts it in a short historical account, "as one man's dream." That one man was Y.C. James Yen, a Yale graduate, who began his career and vocation while working with Chinese coolies in France. In his desire to teach them how to read and write (they kept asking him to write letters home for them and to read the letters they received), Yen ended up developing a simplified form of the Chinese alphabet. Beginning with about 40 students, he was soon teaching hundreds of immigrant workers, while his first students in turn began teaching others. Thus was born the "mass education movement."

Returning to China in the 1920s, Yen realized that basic change could take root only in the rural areas, founding a "research community" where he would put his four-point "ideology" into practice. Unfortunately, the Japanese invasion of China put an end to the experiment, though it led Yen to seek to replicate his work in other countries.

Of all the countries Yen visited in Asia, the Philippines proved most receptive to his ideas, perhaps because the armed peasant uprising had stirred the collective conscience and made social justice an urgent issue. The PRRM was founded under the auspices of "a small but very influential group of private citizens," among them Dean Conrado Benitez of UP, a retired educator and social reformer, who became the movement's chair until 1970. His daughter, former Sen. Helena Benitez, would take up the cudgels for him after his death and is today chair of PRRM.

* * *

A "SUPER NGO" when the term "non-government organization" or even "civil society" had yet to be coined, PRRM established itself as a "volunteer organization," the work and message spread—and lived—by a corps of young college graduates who heeded Yen's call of serving the people and building the nation through the uplift of rural communities.

These idealistic young folk, fondly remembered today as the PRRM pioneers, subsisting on nothing more than a meager allowance, lived and worked in the barrios, helping organize associations of village men, women and youth, including cooperatives and health centers. They did not so much "help" the villagers as mobilize their energies and talents, becoming "agents of change" by facilitating the organization of communities, mainly by sowing the seeds of the idea that power lay in the people themselves and that the people could act on their own behalf.

It also happened that among PRRM's trustees during those early years were two senators: Manuel P. Manahan and Emmanuel Pelaez. As the volunteers put into action Yen's "theories" and scored success after success in rural villages around the country, the two legislators realized that village democracy was the key to development in the countryside. Together, they filed a bill that was eventually signed into law in 1959 and came to be known as the Barrio Charter, the basic law that paved the way for the creation of today's barangay councils.

* * *

MONDAY'S vote for barangay officials is thus a testament to the continuing relevance of one of Yen's and PRRM's basic principles—communities are made up of people, and people are the best agents of change in their own lives and collectively, in the nation's life.

Today, PRRM, under the leadership of former Senator Benitez as chair and former Sen. Wigberto "Bobby" Tañada as president, is present in 20 provinces, with 600 members of PRRM chapters and 30,000 members of partner people's organizations. As one of the country's oldest and largest NGOs, PRRM continues to adhere to its commitment of working with poor and marginalized sectors of rural communities, particularly farmers, small fishers, indigenous peoples, rural youth and women.

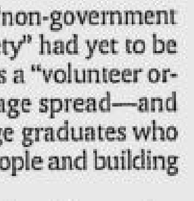
* * *

Comments to rjdavid@inquirer.com.ph

HSBC and furthering historical research

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



WHEN the Lopez Museum moved from an *esquinita* in Pasay to the Ortigas Center in 1985, it was a delight to do research there because buildings were sparse and parking was free and abundant. On the way to the museum I would pass by a small branch of the Hongkong Shanghai Banking Corp. and often contemplated opening a small account, if only to issue HSBC checks. For some reason it seemed *sosyal* at the time to have an HSBC account but then I was told they only accepted large corporate accounts. Later, I was irritated to discover that "old customers" like my friend Tina Cuyugan maintained a modest HSBC current account. Thus, I have resisted the current aggressive marketing of HSBC and maintained an account with the Bank of the Philippine Islands which recently celebrated its 150th anniversary. When I reflect on why I was initially drawn to HSBC in my youth, I guess it had something to do with its Aguinaldo connection which is bu[illegible] footnot[illegible] our history.

When Emilio Aguinaldo laid down his arms and went into exile in Hong Kong in December 1897, it marked the end of the first phase of the Philippine Revolution against Spain. Historians now studying the events of 1896-1897 are of the opinion that if Aguinaldo had pressed the fight, he would have won, but then in one of the cruel twists of history, the Pact of Biak-na-Bato was brokered by Pedro Paterno between Aguinaldo the the Spanish colonial government. Aguinaldo agreed to a truce after being promised that the government would grant a general amnesty to all revolutionists, introduce political reforms and pay an indemnity of $800,000. Of this amount, half or $400,000 was given as the first installment in Biak-na-Bato and the balance payable in two succeeding installments in Hong Kong. Of course, the balance was never fully paid and Aguinaldo returned to the Philippines in 1898 to resume the revolution.

Aguinaldo left his headquarters in Biak-na-Bato and boarded a boat from Sual, Pangasinan that took him and 26 companions to Hong Kong. They arrived there in Dec. 29, 1897 and on Jan. 2, 1898 Aguinaldo carried the $400,000 draft issued by the Banco Español-Filipino to the Hongkong Bank. Two days later he withdrew half, $200,000 and deposited in the Chartered Bank, probably thinking that it was not wise to keep all the eggs in one basket. He earned a 2 percent interest and was allowed to withdraw $50,000 each quarter if he wished. From the records of his stay in Hong Kong, we know that Aguinal[illegible]n the interest earned by these funds and didn't touch the principal until they had to purchase arms for use in the resumption of the revolution.

I have always wondered about the disbursements of these accounts. I also presume there were other deposits that came from other sources. Initial inquiries in Hong Kong led to a dead end. I was told that most of the papers I needed were destroyed during the war, but then Dr. I.G. Brown of the London School of Oriental and African Studies, told me in the mid-1990s that while doing his research on Burma in the papers of HSBC in London, he had come across an envelope marked "E. Aguinaldo" but didn't open it. This envelope has been on my research agenda for a long time and I have not gotten around to doing something about it. I did make an inquiry through Laine Santana of the HSBC office in Manila and the swift response was a package containing the massive four-volume "History of the Hongkong Shanghai Banking Corporation" by Frank H.H. King, published by the Cambridge University Press. The material on Aguinaldo was scanty and the author declared that, "The role of the Bank in the Revolution was, fortunately, one appropriate for a foreign bank—minimal."

Of course, there was the Spanish suspicion that the revolutionists kept their funds in HSBC in Manila. I have a copy of a certificate issued by the bank stating that Andres Bonifacio did not maintain an account in the bank which makes me wonder where the funds of the revolution were kept. Surely, not in a post in Bonifacio's house! Nor in Gregoria de Jesus' piggy bank. In the Library of Congress in Washington I came across an undated power of attorney issued by Aguinaldo to Felipe Agoncillo and Vito Belarmino that reads in part:

"...To ask, demand, sue for, recover and receive from the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation the sum of two hundred thousand dollars belonging to me and deposited by me in the said Bank on the third of January of the year 1898 and for which the said bank issued to me a deposit receipt no. 34/1 and all interest in respect of sum 200,000 dollars and on payment transfer or delivery thereof..."

The above resulted from the lawsuit Isabelo Artacho brought on Aguinaldo to gain control of the funds. Aguinaldo hid in Singapore where he met the American consul who promised him Philippine independence in exchange for helping Dewey fight the Spaniards in the Philippines in May 1898. One thing leads to another and yes, HSBC is a small part of that history and has reaped free publicity for over a century. HSBC records, if available, will show us all the transactions and lay to rest or confirm malicious talk regarding the manner in which Aguinaldo spent the Biak-na-Bato money.

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Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

The early years

HIGH BLOOD

Demetrio V. Dalusag

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

OUR family lived in the village of Guyong-Guyong now Barangay Arcadio Dalusag, named after my late father, a guerrilla major during the Japanese occupation of the Philippines. An appointive mayor in 1946 and a mayoral candidate in the town of General Aguinaldo [illegible]merly Bailen), Cavite, my father was killed by his pol[illegible] enemies on the eve of the election in 1947. He was [illegible]

I remember my father getting mad at my mother because of two incidents. First, for my mother's difficulty in locating where she buried her *bulsita* of money in the ground around our small bamboo house. Another time, he was mad at almost everybody in the family except, I thought, at me, who meekly cowered in a corner of the house. The reason, according to my sister Toyang, was my mother's jealousy over his perceived philandering.

Our bamboo house, with its *cogon* roof, stood on wooden stilts about one-and-a-half meters high. A stretch of different mango species (*pahutan, manggang kalal*[illegible] and *piko*) arranged in rows, lined the northern portion of the one-room hut. There was a horse stable, also with a *cogon* roof, right beside the stairs. My teenage sisters Toyang and Luring occasionally rode the horse coming home from the grazing pasture or some errands. A coconut tree stood some four meters north. The frogs loudly croaked in [illegible] small pond about five meters to the west.

With three other children, (my neighbors Remy Bendo and brothers Pabling and Isaias Mendoza), we played or just roamed around a wide clearing surrounded by *payang-payang* shrubs north of our house.

With some others (mostly adults), we watched the so-called dogfights between American and Japanese airplanes. My mother at one time brought the three of us youngest siblings to a nearby spring ostensibly to bathe us but it was really to hide us from the Japanese invaders.

One night, a strong typhoon lashed the village and my father, fearing the strong winds and rains might topple our hut, brought us, with mats, blankets and other paraphernalia, to a sturdier house across the creek. The house belonged to Kakang Hana Bendo, my father's first cousin.

We would occasionally talk about the sight of lights in Manila, which some villagers erroneously thought of as fishermen's lights in Manila Bay.

After World War II, we returned to our ancestral house in the poblacion. Funny, the only scene I remember in the trek back home was going down the last of three rivers where boulders had been whitened through the years by the bleaching detergents of local women.

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It also had a *banggerahan* where we placed our *tabos* or coconut shells and cans for securing water, some glasses, soaps, and some other utensils. Then we had a large army drum on the ground which we filled with water from the wells or rain water during the rainy season for baths.

The living room and large bedroom had wooden ceilings while the rest of the rooms had none. We had two beds, a woven rattan with iron posts from which we hanged the mosquito net and the other, made of plain wood. That meant most of us slept on the floor using mats.

When we left during the war, the house was temporarily occupied by a mother and son, Ate Iska and Noli Yongis, who was called Kastila because his father was a Spaniard. They vacated it when we returned.

Our home compound had lots of fruit trees—kaimito, anopas, dalandan, coffee, mabolo, granada and avocado—that shaded the house on hot summer days. Ornamental plants like camias, rosals, dahlias, sampaguitas, roses, etc. also filled the yard. In flower pots dotting the *pasimanos* or window sills of the sala were pitiminis, daisies, chrysanthemums, American Beauty and others. One post at the west edge of the house was inhabited by *lukot* whose sticky secretion we frequently played with.

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Ah! The rich reminiscences of a 62-year-old *probinsyano* of a bygone age.

Demetrio V. Dalusag, 62 [illegible]rvice.

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Seductive, simplistic and dangerous shortcuts

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

MAYOR Rodrigo Duterte of Davao City stirred up a furor with his tough "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth" speech against crime at the anti-crime summit last July 9.

He said, "The intention of the criminals is to instill fear in their victims, and kill them. What would we do but kill them also." His speech was well-applauded by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and his audience. Public reaction, reflected in TV calls, was overwhelmingly in favor of his speech.

His speech was interpreted by human rights groups as a strong pitch for extra-legal execution in the style associated with former Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim and former Philippine National Police chief Panfilo Lacson (in the Kuratong Baleleng massacre).

Duterte denied he ever called for extra-legal executions as a method to solve law and order problems, and a review of his speech and the tapes confirms he never advocated that solution. However, Duterte is smart enough not going beyond the brink of being explicit. But those who have been exposed to tough talk associated with "salvaging," the message is clear enough to both criminals and law-abiding citizens.

Duterte's method has produced results. Crime incidence is low in Davao City. And in recognition of his anti-crime position, the President has asked Duterte to be her consultant on crime at a time when she is putting emphasis on crushing the kidnappings in Metro Manila, as a priority of her administration.

What Duterte said is less of a concern than the fact that it was well-applauded and has struck a wide resonance among citizens. The resonance reflects public frustration over endless campaigns launched by governments since the Marcos dictatorship to crush the crime syndicates—kidnapping and car theft being the most notorious cases—without appreciable results.

It reflects a note of despair over the ability of the police and the authorities to combat serious crimes which now include drug trafficking. Anyone in public authority, therefore, who demonstrates some success in curbing crime and instills fear among criminals comes off as a messiah of law and order.

Because lawful means and law enforcement authorities—either because of corruption or incompetence—have proved to be ineffective in combating criminal syndicates, citizens are driven to embrace tough, extra-judicial methods of killing criminals. They even find it acceptable that there is no sure-fire method of determining the criminals and that the innocent could be victims of an anti-crime pogrom carried out by overzealous anti-crime fighters like Duterte.

There are heavy costs to be paid for accepting uncluttered solutions to fight criminals, but it's alarming that those who applaud Duterte don't realize these. There would have been no Dutertes, Alfredo Lims and Panfilo Lacsons—as law and order champions—if law enforcement agencies are competent and less corrupt.

What the applause over Duterte's method signifies, apart from its popularity, is that it is a distant thunder clap of an approaching storm foreshadowing the public clamor for a strong man.

Law and order, national security and ending paralysis in a turbulent democracy have always been seductive themes of leaders with authoritarian inclination. We don't have to look far for models of a political climate that fostered the rise of authoritarian leadership in Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia.

When President Ferdinand Marcos laid the ground for the installation of authoritarianism, he exploited two themes—the deteriorating law and order and the threat of the Communist rebellion. In his call for a "democratic revolution," Marcos said the country was in the midst of a crisis and was caught between the conflict between the Right ("lawless elements" composed of criminal gangs) and the Left (posed by the social unrest fanned by the communists).

Marcos postured himself as the man in the middle standing between the two extremes, and the savior of the nation on the edge of collapse. This call was most resonant to the middle class which was terrorized by and felt helpless over the rising criminality and which was equally terrified at the prospects of a communist takeover.

As a consequence, the middle class, the business community and the very rich were worried less about the solution of authoritarianism and the shortcuts against criminals than they were about an authoritarian regime that seemed so attractive at the time in the context of the wave of authoritarianism in Asia and Latin America.

The seductive call for shortcuts in combating crime, however, does not come from the political leadership but from a local official whose message is a reminder that national leaders ought to address the crime menace effectively, otherwise civil institutions would be undermined by those who offer more forceful but less than legal solutions to problems of crime and even political gridlock. There are already politicians who are waiting in the wings to ride on the platform of law and order to gain political power. In this respect, President Macapagal is not offering strong leadership within democratic methods.

I am not worried about Duterte but many are disturbed by the implication of the development of a favorable public opinion for extra-legal executions and even political shortcuts to end political impasse and national paralysis.

Power to the barangay

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

TWO days ago, voters trooped to the polls to choose leaders for the most basic unit of our democracy: the barangay. These days, the barangay council and officials take charge of most neighborhood concerns: peace-and-order, basic services, basic justice and conflict resolution, illegal drugs, waste disposal, health problems, education, even sports, cultural and religious activities.

Hard as it is to believe, given that the barangay plays such a big role in the nation's life today, the idea of village governance is relatively new. It took national government officials, including legislators, some time before they could wrap their minds around the idea that village folk had the capacity to run the affairs of their small communities. It was even more difficult for them to buy the idea that "simple" barrio folk could think and decide for themselves, even if they were unlettered and ignorant, and directly elect their local leaders, instead of having them appointed by "higher-ups."

So what made them believe it was possible to bluild democracy from the grassroots? The answer is fairly simple: it was demonstrated in numerous experiments in "self-governance" of a pioneering Philippine volunteer organization, the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement or PRRM. Founded in 1952, the PRRM celebrates its 50th year today, marking a half century of, to paraphrase portions of the movement's "credo": living among the people, learning from them, working with them, teaching by showing and learning by doing.

* * *

PRRM was founded as part of an effort of "reconstruction" after the devastation of World War II, but it began life in the midst of another war, the Huk uprising that had its roots in peasant restiveness against centuries-old injustices based on a feudal system of power and land ownership.

It began, as writer Butch Dalisay puts it in a short historical account, "as one man's dream." That one man was Y.C. James Yen, a Yale graduate, who began his career and vocation while working with Chinese coolies in France. In his desire to teach them how to read and write (they kept asking him to write letters home for them and to read the letters they received), Yen ended up developing a simplified form of the Chinese alphabet. Beginning with about 40 students, he was soon teaching hundreds of immigrant workers, while his first students in turn began teaching others. Thus was born the "mass education movement."

Returning to China in the 1920s, Yen realized that basic change could take root only in the rural areas, founding a "research community" where he would put his four-point "ideology" into practice. Unfortunately, the Japanese invasion of China put an end to the experiment, though it led Yen to seek to replicate his work in other countries.

Of all the countries Yen visited in Asia, the Philippines proved most receptive to his ideas, perhaps because the armed peasant uprising had stirred the collective conscience and made social justice an urgent issue. The PRRM was founded under the auspices of "a small but very influential group of private citizens," among them Dean Conrado Benitez of UP, a retired educator and social reformer, who became the movement's chair until 1970. His daughter, former Sen. Helena Benitez, would take up the cudgels for him after his death and is today chair of PRRM.

* * *

A "SUPER NGO" when the term "non-government organization" or even "civil society" had yet to be coined, PRRM established itself as a "volunteer organization," the work and message spread—and lived—by a corps of young college graduates who heeded Yen's call of serving the people and building the nation through the uplift of rural communities.

These idealistic young folk, fondly remembered today as the PRRM pioneers, subsisting on nothing more than a meager allowance, lived and worked in the barrios, helping organize associations of village men, women and youth, including cooperatives and health centers. They did not so much "help" the villagers as mobilize their energies and talents, becoming "agents of change" by facilitating the organization of communities, mainly by sowing the seeds of the idea that power lay in the people themselves and that the people could act on their own behalf.

It also happened that among PRRM's trustees during those early years were two senators: Manuel P. Manahan and Emmanuel Pelaez. As the volunteers put into action Yen's "theories" and scored success after success in rural villages around the country, the two legislators realized that village democracy was the key to development in the countryside. Together, they filed a bill that was eventually signed into law in 1959 and came to be known as the Barrio Charter, the basic law that paved the way for the creation of today's barangay councils.

* * *

MONDAY'S vote for barangay officials is thus a testament to the continuing relevance of one of Yen's and PRRM's basic principles—communities are made up of people, and people are the best agents of change in their own lives and collectively, in the nation's life.

Today, PRRM, under the leadership of former Senator Benitez as chair and former Sen. Wigberto "Bobby" Tañada as president, is present in 20 provinces, with 600 members of PRRM chapters and 30,000 members of partner people's organizations. As one of the country's oldest and largest NGOs, PRRM continues to adhere to its commitment of working with poor and marginalized sectors of rural communities, particularly farmers, small fishers, indigenous peoples, rural youth and women.

* * *

Comments to rjdavid@inquirer.com.ph

HSBC and furthering historical research

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

WHEN the Lopez Museum moved from an *esquinita* in Pasay to the Ortigas Center in 1985, it was a delight to do research there because buildings were sparse and parking was free and abundant. On the way to the museum I would pass by a small branch of the Hongkong Shanghai Banking Corp. and often contemplated opening a small account, if only to issue HSBC checks. For some reason it seemed *sosyal* at the time to have an HSBC account but then I was told they only accepted large corporate accounts. Later, I was irritated to discover that "old customers" like my friend Tina Cuyugan maintained a modest HSBC current account. Thus, I have resisted the current aggressive marketing of HSBC and maintained an account with the Bank of the Philippine Islands which recently celebrated its 150th anniversary. When I reflect on why I was initially drawn to HSBC in my youth, I guess it had something to do with its Aguinaldo connection which is but a footnote in our history.

When Emilio Aguinaldo laid down his arms and went into exile in Hong Kong in December 1897, it marked the end of the first phase of the Philippine Revolution against Spain. Historians now studying the events of 1896-1897 are of the opinion that if Aguinaldo had pressed the fight, he would have won, but then in one of the cruel twists of history, the Pact of Biak-na-Bato was brokered by Pedro Paterno between Aguinaldo the the Spanish colonial government. Aguinaldo agreed to a truce after being promised that the government would grant a general amnesty to all revolutionists, introduce political reforms and pay an indemnity of $800,000. Of this amount, half or $400,000 was given as the first installment in Biak-na-Bato and the balance payable in two succeeding installments in Hong Kong. Of course, the balance was never fully paid and Aguinaldo returned to the Philippines in 1898 to resume the revolution.

Aguinaldo left his headquarters in Biak-na-Bato and boarded a boat from Sual, Pangasinan that took him and 26 companions to Hong Kong. They arrived there in Dec. 29, 1897 and on Jan. 2, 1898 Aguinaldo carried the $400,000 draft issued by the Banco Español-Filipino to the Hongkong Bank. Two days later he withdrew half, $200,000 and deposited in the Chartered Bank, probably thinking that it was not wise to keep all the eggs in one basket. He earned a 2 percent interest and was allowed to withdraw $50,000 each quarter if he wished. From the records of his stay in Hong Kong, we know that Aguinaldo lived on the interest earned by these funds and didn't touch the principal until they had to purchase arms for use in the resumption of the revolution.

I have always wondered about the disbursements of these accounts. I also presume there were other deposits that came from other sources. Initial inquiries in Hong Kong led to a dead end. I was told that most of the papers I needed were destroyed during the war, but then Dr. I.G. Brown of the London School of Oriental and African Studies, told me in the mid-1990s that while doing his research on Burma in the papers of HSBC in London, he had come across an envelope marked "E. Aguinaldo" but didn't open it. This envelope has been on my research agenda for a long time and I have not gotten around to doing something about it. I did make an inquiry through Laine Santana of the HSBC office in Manila and the swift response was a package containing the massive four-volume "History of the Hongkong Shanghai Banking Corporation" by Frank H.H. King, published by the Cambridge University Press. The material on Aguinaldo was scanty and the author declared that, "The role of the Bank in the Revolution was, fortunately, one appropriate for a foreign bank—minimal."

Of course, there was the Spanish suspicion that the revolutionists kept their funds in HSBC in Manila. I have a copy of a certificate issued by the bank stating that Andres Bonifacio did not maintain an account in the bank which makes me wonder where the funds of the revolution were kept. Surely, not in a post in Bonifacio's house! Nor in Gregoria de Jesus' piggy bank. In the Library of Congress in Washington I came across an undated power of attorney issued by Aguinaldo to Felipe Agoncillo and Vito Belarmino that reads in part:

"...To ask, demand, sue for, recover and receive from the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation the sum of two hundred thousand dollars belonging to me and deposited by me in the said Bank on the third of January of the year 1898 and for which the said bank issued to me a deposit receipt no. 34/1 and all interest in respect of sum 200,000 dollars and on payment transfer or delivery thereof..."

The above resulted from the lawsuit Isabelo Artacho brought on Aguinaldo to gain control of the funds. Aguinaldo hid in Singapore where he met the American consul who promised him Philippine independence in exchange for helping Dewey fight the Spaniards in the Philippines in May 1898. One thing leads to another and yes, HSBC is a small part of that history and has reaped free publicity for over a century. HSBC records, if available, will show us all the transactions and lay to rest or confirm malicious talk regarding the manner in which Aguinaldo spent the Biak-na-Bato money.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

The early years

HIGH BLOOD

Demetrio V. Dalusag

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

OUR family lived in the village of Guyong-Guyong now Barangay Arcadio Dalusag, named after my late father, a guerrilla major during the Japanese occupation of the Philippines. An appointive mayor in 1946 and a mayoral candidate in the town of General Aguinaldo (formerly Bailen), Cavite, my father was killed by his political enemies on the eve of the election in 1947. He was 42 years old.

I remember my father getting mad at my mother because of two incidents. First, for my mother's difficulty in locating where she buried her *bulsita* of money in the ground around our small bamboo house. Another time, he was mad at almost everybody in the family except, I thought, at me, who meekly cowered in a corner of the house. The reason, according to my sister Toyang, was my mother's jealousy over his perceived philandering.

Our bamboo house, with its *cogon* roof, stood on wooden stilts about one-and-a-half meters high. A stretch of different mango species (*pahutan, manggang kalabaw* and *piko*) arranged in rows, lined the northern portion of the one-room hut. There was a horse stable, also with a *cogon* roof, right beside the stairs. My teenage sisters Toyang and Luring occasionally rode the horse coming home from the grazing pasture or some errands. A coconut tree stood some four meters north. The frogs loudly croaked in a small pond about five meters to the west.

With three other children, (my neighbors Remy Bendo and brothers Pabling and Isaias Mendoza), we played or just roamed around a wide clearing surrounded by *payang-payang* shrubs north of our house.

With some others (mostly adults), we watched the so-called dogfights between American and Japanese airplanes. My mother at one time brought the three of us youngest siblings to a nearby spring ostensibly to bathe us but it was really to hide us from the Japanese invaders.

One night, a strong typhoon lashed the village and my father, fearing the strong winds and rains might topple our hut, brought us, with mats, blankets and other paraphernalia, to a sturdier house across the creek. The house belonged to Kakang Hana Bendo, my father's first cousin.

We would occasionally talk about the sight of lights in Manila, which some villagers erroneously thought of as fishermen's lights in Manila Bay.

After World War II, we returned to our ancestral house in the poblacion. Funny, the only scene I remember in the trek back home was going down the last of three rivers where boulders had been whitened through the years by the bleaching detergents of local women.

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When I had a boil on my scalp, my parents called for the *sanidad* for medication. The *sanidad* placed a medical thread to remove the pus from the ruptured boil. Coddled by my father and attended to by my mother, I cried, trying to wiggle out of my father's hold and evade the painful application of the medical thread.

I also remember myself beside my parents in the large bedroom and my father instructing my mother to remove *tungaw* from his private parts. It was nighttime and the only light was a *perok-perok* and my siblings were huddled together at the west end of the bedroom.

Lastly, at age 6, I was only *saling pusa* in my mother's Grade One class. She was an elementary school teacher in our house that was rented and functioned as a classroom during the day. She later passed her teaching position to my elder sister and moved on to a clerical position in the municipal hall.

Ah! The rich reminiscences of a 62-year-old *probinsyano* of a bygone age.

Demetrio V. Dalusag, 62, retired from the government service.

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Face to face with homegrown bigotry

WHAT differentiates an American bigot from a Filipino bigot? Nothing. Except maybe the color of the skin.

I am a Philippine-born college student who grew up in the United States. My family emigrated from Manila to Los Angeles when I was 4 years old. We did not return until 10 years later, and that was just for 12 days, to attend a family reunion. Though I can now barely remember the trip, something inside me knew this was home.

Fast forward to five years later, and here I am again. It was my decision, with my family's reluctant support, to spend my college years here. I do not know exactly why and when I got the idea, but I did. I arrived in Manila, not knowing anyone except a few cousins, a month before taking the entrance exams to the four most prestigious colleges. I qualified for all four.

Now in the middle of my first term, I have experienced the worst case of bigotry in my life. The irony is that while living in the United States, where you would think bigotry would be a constant reality, I rarely, if at all, experienced it. I needed to go back to my own mother country to experience it full force, from my own peers.

It was subtle at first, coming in the form of teasing. My classmates would speak in hushed voices around me and not include me in their conversations, even though we were group mates. Then, while working on a project, they would mock my "Taglish" (the only form of Tagalog I know). I would smile and let the snide remarks pass, thinking that's their way of including me in their group or that's their way of dealing with their nervousness.

But as the weeks passed, it became more obvious that they did not want me to be a part of their clique. I wasn't Filipino enough. I didn't understand their jokes, or their slang. I didn't understand their objectives and since my suggestions were "too American," they were more than happy to tell me that I didn't belong in that group. Sure I looked Filipino, but I was an outsider. They sniffed me out and quite bluntly showed me the door.

At first I could not understand why. I even blamed myself, thinking I was being too sensitive. But in the end, I concluded that it was because they did not like the fact that I spoke like a foreigner but did not look like one. Maybe in their simple minds, they could not understand it. Maybe they thought that I was faking it. But whatever the explanation, it came down to one thing: bigotry.

Everyone treated me differently, excluded me from all their conversations and activities, all because they did not like how I spoke and where I came from.

I came back to this country, which I still consider my mother country, to find my niche, my connection and my place in society. Surprisingly, all I got was this shocking bigotry from people who were supposed to be better educated.

—**MARIA UY, Quezon City**

Pagcor's support for PSC increasing

WE read with amusement the letter titled "Unpaid cash rewards for athletes" last July 6, 2002 by Aparicio H. Mequi, president of the Philippine Association of Physical Educators Inc., which we believe contained some misleading statements.

The cash incentive of Olympian silver medalist Onyok Velasco is now being addressed based on the newly passed law giving cash incentives to all national athletes winning in the Olympics, Asian Games and other world championships.

This is precisely the very intention of the new law, to give enough incentives and more benefits to all sports achievers who have sacrificed and given the country immeasurable pride and honor.

Mequi is correct in saying that under the provisions of the new sports incentives law, it is the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) which is mandated to supply the required funding. But he is gravely wrong in carelessly concluding that Pagcor is failing in its duty to provide the Philippine Sports Commission sufficient budget to bankroll its various projects.

I wish to inform Mequi and the public in general that Pagcor's support for all PSC programs and projects is steadily gaining momentum especially when it comes to the welfare and needs of the national athletes.

This can easily be seen in the increasing monthly funding support and in the massive assistance to the implementation of the PSC's special projects like the construction of an Athlete's Dormitory inside the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex where Pagcor will be initially giving P50 million.

Pagcor is also instrumental in helping us establish the National Athletes and Coaches Lounge and the soon-to-be-staged Alay sa Gintong Medalya Concert Series to drum up support for the country's participation in the 14th Asian Games in Busan, South Korea this coming September.

We also wish to inform the public and Mequi that the new Pagcor and the new PSC are solidly united and 100-percent supportive of all endeavors and aspirations of the Filipino athletes.

Rather than meddle in affairs that do not directly concern his turf as the president of the Philippine Association of Physical Educators Inc., we would like to tell Mequi to instead summon all his energies and efforts to other relevant issues. Issues that best require the wisdom of Mequi like ventilating the disappointing plight of PE teachers to Congress or questioning the current curriculum that only gives students 60 minutes of PE classes every week.

—**ERIC R. BUHAIN, chair,**
Philippine Sports Commission,
Rizal Memorial Sports Complex,
Pablo Ocampo Sr. St., Malate,
Metro Manila

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BUSINESS Today INQUIRER

Misplaced presidential ire

THIS is a reaction to your news article last June 21 titled, "GMA temper flares again over ancestral land titles."

A year has passed since President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo promised that her administration would distribute 100 ancestral land titles by June 30, 2002, but not a single title has been distributed to date. The President blames the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) for the delay and non-distribution of ancestral land titles. Yet, Malacañang failed to provide budgetary support to the NCIP. The NCIP is being used as the scapegoat to cover up the weaknesses of the current administration.

The insufficient budget allotted to the NCIP is a reflection of the low priority given by the government to policy measures that promote social justice. The agency's current budget can only support personnel services and maintenance and other operating expenses. There was no allocation for land titling, cultural mapping, cultural tribal census and ancestral territorial domain survey and delineation.

During one of our consultations in Mindanao, the Mindanao Indigenous Peoples' Independent Peace Negotiating Panel, which is composed of leaders of 50 lumad tribes, pointed out that the P390-million budget of the NCIP is so small that it could only cover payment of the salaries of its personnel which reached P308 million. The balance is not enough to finance the mentioned activities that are crucial to the process of reclaiming and advocating the rights of indigenous peoples over their land.

The pending certificate of ancestral domain title (CADT) applications cover a total area of five million hectares. How can the President expect the NCIP to fulfill her commitment of distributing 100 titles especially when her administration has not backed up its promise with the required budgetary allocation?

If the government claims that there are no funds for ancestral land titling, how come the government, through the Department of Agriculture and Quedancor, allotted P220 million for the local production of palm oil? Palm oil production is strongly opposed by various lumads in Mindanao, but the government still allocated a substantial amount of fund for its implementation.

It now appears that the President is merely paying lip service to the indigenous peoples in our country. And her indignation toward the NCIP is a futile attempt at covering up her own neglect of this sector.

—**OMI ROYANDOYAN,**
Philippine Peasant Institute,
Rm. 319, PSSC Bldg.,
Commonwealth Ave.,
Diliman, Quezon City

Clarification on kidnapping statistics

I THANK your writers for being objective and comprehensive in their reports on the kidnapping situation in the country. I commend their stress on the importance of the media practicing responsible journalism to protect victims. But as I've often commented, the media can be our best friend in our fight against criminality as it can also be our worst enemy.

In the slant of your story on July 9 and 10, including the photograph and the caption you used, you have made it appear as if the new PNP chief, Gen. Hermogenes Ebdane, is my public enemy, something which is farthest from the truth.

Your July 9 news article said: "But the Ang See report obtained by the INQUIRER, complete with a list of kidnap victims..." I told Ebdane "there is no way the INQUIRER can get any report from me yesterday because I wasn't even in the office since I was sick. What is more, I have never and in no way will I ever release to the media any report that would include a list of kidnap victims. I have lasted in my work for the last 10 years because I have kept data about kidnap victims in absolute confidence, unless they had been published by mainstream media."

On July 10 you said, "But the INQUIRER did talk to her and received the statistics from her by fax." While it is true that I talked with Nancy Carvajal through my mobile phone, other media (print, radio, TV) especially those who came to our office, can attest to the fact that I called in sick and could not have faxed any report to you. I have no fax machine at home and neither did I have access to the statistics that were faxed to your office.

In fact, I remember calling Carvajal that I don't have the figures at hand but as far as I know, there is a slight decrease in the number of victims compared to last year. I also told her very emphatically: "I do not want to be drawn into a quarrel about statistics. It is counterproductive, and it wastes time and energy." In fact, I have repeatedly told the media that even if we concede to the police figures, they are bad enough and we must treat each kidnapping incident as one too many.

What Carvajal and all the other reporters obtained were the statistics from the office of the Citizens Action Against Crime and the figures she cited were correct. They showed an increase in the number of incidents and a decrease in the number of victims.

I reiterate what I told Carvajal, that we anti-crime NGOs have never been the adversaries of the police force, only of crooked policemen, especially those who have been implicated in kidnapping. I even questioned her for saying that the statistics will be the highlight of the summit on July 9 which I told her will be far from the truth.

Carvajal even asked point blank, "You seem to have changed your tune about the police now..." and I countered: "No, I have always been very consistent. Even at the height of my disagreement with former Chief Leandro Mendoza, I continued working well with the men under him whom we could trust." Let me reiterate that Ebdane and his men will continue to get our support as long as they do their job efficiently and effectively.

—**TERESITA ANG SEE, Citizens**
Action Against Crime-Movement
for Restoration of Peace and
Order, 2/F Kaisa Angelo King
Heritage Center,
Anda corner Cabildo Streets,
Intramuros, Manila

I received last Monday, July 9, the CAAC-MCRPO statistics on the number of victims and incidents by fax from the office of Ms Ang See.

The CAAC-MCRPO list of kidnapping victims which the INQUIRER obtained did not come from Ms Ang See.

In our phone interview, she mentioned the names of some of the victims who were on the list.

—**NANCY C. CARVAJAL**

UE's BSME program ongoing in Caloocan campus

THIS is to clarify that, contrary to a recent report in various newspapers, the University of the East's Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering (BSME) program continues.

After a clarificatory meeting with executive director Roger P. Perez of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) last month, the CHED rectified its stand regarding UE's BSME program. At the meeting, UE presented PRC records attesting to the creditable performances of UE BSME graduates, whose overall passing percentage has been consistently above the national passing percentage. In fact, 28 UE BSME graduates were among the successful examinees in the Mechanical Engineering Board Exams held by the Professional Regulation Commission last April 13 to 15, 2002; thus, UE was ranked third among 13 schools with 26-50 examinees in the April board exams.

To reiterate, the UE BSME program for all year levels is being offered at UE's Caloocan Campus, to where it was moved from UE's Manila campus in 1989.

—**BALTAZAR N. ENDRIGA, vice**
president for academic affairs,
University of the East

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

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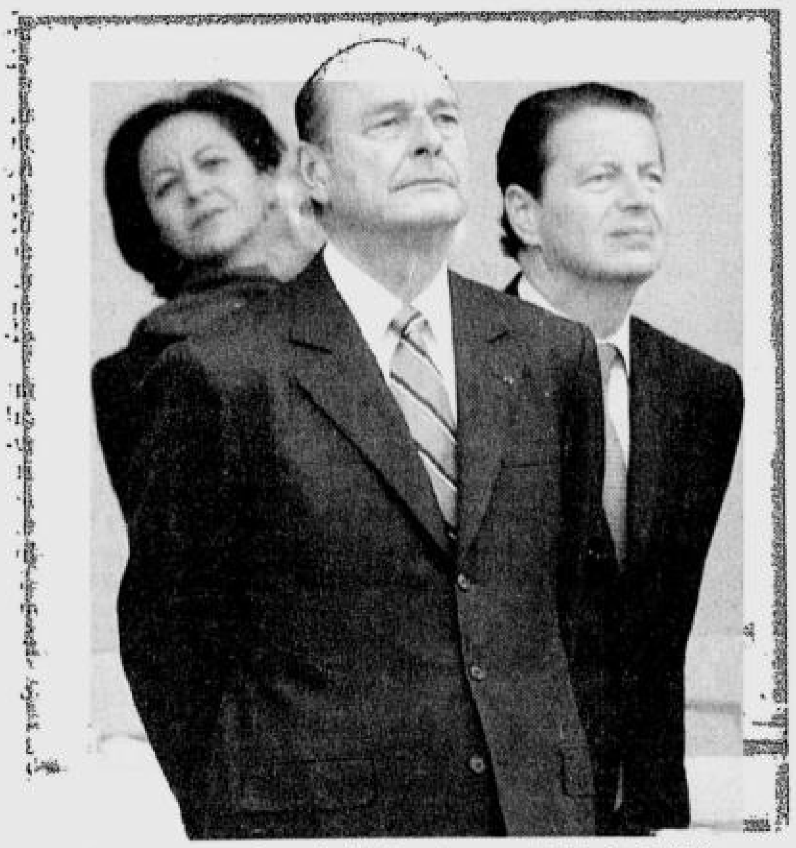
Chirac attacker acted alone



STATE Secretary to Sustainable Development Tokia Sa-fi (left), President Jacques Chirac (center) and Justice Minister Dominique Perben watch the military parade down the Champs-Elysees in Paris, July 14, during Bastille Day celebrations. French police patrolling the parade arrested a gunman who produced a rifle from a guitar-case just moments after Chirac passed by in his motorcade. AFP

PARIS—Neo-Nazi militant Maxime Brunerie acted alone when he tried to kill French President Jacques Chirac at the weekend, French investigators said Monday.

The 25-year-old gunman was committed to a psychiatric ward for further tests, prosecutors said, while experts determine whether he was criminally responsible for his actions.

Investigators said they had the "inner conviction" that Brunerie, who has links to extremist groups, was not working with others when he made his assassination attempt.

Brunerie fired a single shot from a .22-caliber rifle as Chirac drove past the Arc de Triomphe in a open-top jeep at the start of Sunday's Bastille Day parade. Bystanders immediately overpowered him, and the president was unhurt.

Prosecutors said Brunerie would be taken late Monday to a hospital in the Paris suburbs because of the danger he posed to himself and to others.

After one month, officials will decide whether to keep him in hospital or send him to prison.

Brunerie could eventually be placed under investigation if experts believe he was mentally fit at the time of the shooting.

Police have questioned some 20 relatives, friends and associates of Brunerie since Sunday's attack, and plan to interview his parents on Tuesday.

Several right-wing activists close to Brunerie told police the student and part-time chaffeur had repeatedly voiced his wish to "do something" to the French president but that they had not taken his threats seriously.

They also told police Brunerie was fascinated by US white supremacists and a British movement known as C-18, prosecutors noted.

Police said they were hunting for a man described as Brunerie's best friend who was one of the last people to see him before the incident.

Brunerie told police Sunday that he had intended to assassinate Chirac and then commit suicide. His incoherent speech and behavior prompted them to call in medical specialists.

Brunerie was known to police for his connections to the neo-Nazi movement, and has taken part in a number of far-right demonstrations since 1997.

Police said they found "extremist propaganda" of a neo-Nazi nature at Brunerie's home in Courcouronnes, noting he had posted a message on an English-language web site urging readers to watch television on Sunday.

He was also a candidate from the far-right National Republican Movement (MNR) in last year's municipal elections in the French capital's northern 18th arrondissement, or district. He was not elected.

The MNR is led by Bruno Megret, who split away from the National Front (FN) of veteran far-right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen in 1998.

Megret said Monday that the MNR "rejects all forms of extremism" and denied any involvement in what it called an "odious and senseless act." Sunday's attack was the first attempt on a French president's life since the far-right Secret Army Organization (OAS) tried to kill Charles de Gaulle in 1962, and has fed growing anxieties about politically motivated terrorism.

But experts emphasized that Brunerie's attack was far from professional, and that his low-caliber weapon had little chance of killing except at close range.

Officials from France's political intelligence agency General Intelligence (RG) said Brunerie had recently joined a hardline group called "Radical Unity." The group, which operates on the fringes of the FN and the MNR, has never attempted to hide its belief in European racial supremacy, and posted a message of support for Brunerie on its web site on Monday.

"It's not for us to answer for or to excuse his actions, but simply to tell him in his current state of distress that camaraderie is not an empty word for us," the message said. *AFP*

Convicted Pearl killer a college dropout radicalized by Bosnia

SAEED

NEW YORK—The convicted killer of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl dropped out of a prestigious London university when war in the heart of Europe lured him to a life of Islamic militancy.

According to interviews and Indian intelligence documents obtained by The Associated Press, Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh was radicalized by the people he met and the things he learned on the way to Bosnia in 1993. After the trip, he dropped out of the London School of Economics and headed for the training camps of Afghanistan.

Saeed was put on trial in Pakistan on April 22 for the kidnapping and murder of Pearl, the 38-year-old reporter who was abducted Jan. 23 while working on a story about Muslim extremists in Pakistan.

He faces the same charges in the United States where authorities are seeking Saeed's extradition. It isn't clear whether Pakistan would be willing to hand him over to U.S. custody. He was sentenced Monday to death by hanging.

It was the second time the British-born Saeed has been charged with kidnapping a U.S. citizen. In November, Saeed was secretly indicted in the United States for the 1994 kidnapping of four Westerners in India, including Bela Nuss of California. He spent five years in an Indian jail for those kidnappings but was released as part of a deal to free the hijacked passengers of an Indian Airlines flight in 1999.

Saeed was born on Dec. 23, 1973, six years after his father, a clothing merchant, moved to London from a village near Lahore, Pakistan.

Growing up in a middle class home in Wanstead, east London, Saeed went to private schools, won a junior chess championship and competed in an international arm wrestling competition.

His English upbringing was briefly interrupted at age 13 when his father moved the family back to Lahore for two years while he tried several business ventures with relatives, including a chemicals factory. All failed.

Returning to London, Saeed completed his college entrance requirements at the private Forest School and won admission to LSE in the fall of 1992.

Saeed's high school economics teacher remembered him as "a good strong academic candidate and a very personable human being." George Paytner told AP that Saeed was a leader in the class and always the first to volunteer.

At college, Saeed joined the Islamic Society and from there, officials believe, he changed from English school boy to rising militant.

According to a classified Indian intelligence file obtained by AP, Saeed told investigators he was moved by a film at the Islamic Society on the plight of Bosnian Muslims during the Yugoslav civil war. "It shook my heart," Saeed wrote while he was in jail in India.

The 19 pages of diary-like notes that Saeed kept were obtained through court records in India. He described organizing a campus conference on Bosnia in 1993 and joining the London-based Muslim charity Convoy of Mercy on a trip to Bosnia later that year. *AP*

Typhoon lashes Japan

TOKYO—Halong, the second typhoon to hit Japan in a week, lashed the main island of Honshu with heavy rains and strong winds on Tuesday, forcing thousands to evacuate after it left 61 people dead in the Philippines.

The typhoon, picking up speed, landed on Izu peninsula in Shizuoka prefecture, 150 km west of Tokyo, shortly after 9 a.m., the Meteorological Agency said, delaying high-speed "bullet" trains and causing airline cancellations.

Heavy rains buffetted Tokyo commuters in the morning rush hour as powerful winds bent tree branches. Television showed waves crashing along the Pacific coast of Shizuoka.

"The typhoon is likely to come closest to Tokyo this morning, shortly before noon," a Meteorological Agency official said.

Around 40-70 mm of rain was expected in the capital as Halong, named after a scenic bay in Vietnam, swirled along the coast, heading towards Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkai do, the official said.

In Niigata prefecture, some 255 km northwest of Tokyo, more than 3,200 people living near rivers had evacuated their homes and taken shelter in schools and local gymnasiums.

Including Niigata, some 4,000 people had been evacuated in six prefectures, public television broadcaster NHK said.

The number of injuries due to strong winds from the typhoon rose to five, including a 58-year-old man who slipped off a roof while trying to repair his home, a police official said.

Four others were hurt after being knocked off their feet by strong gusts of wind. *Reuters*

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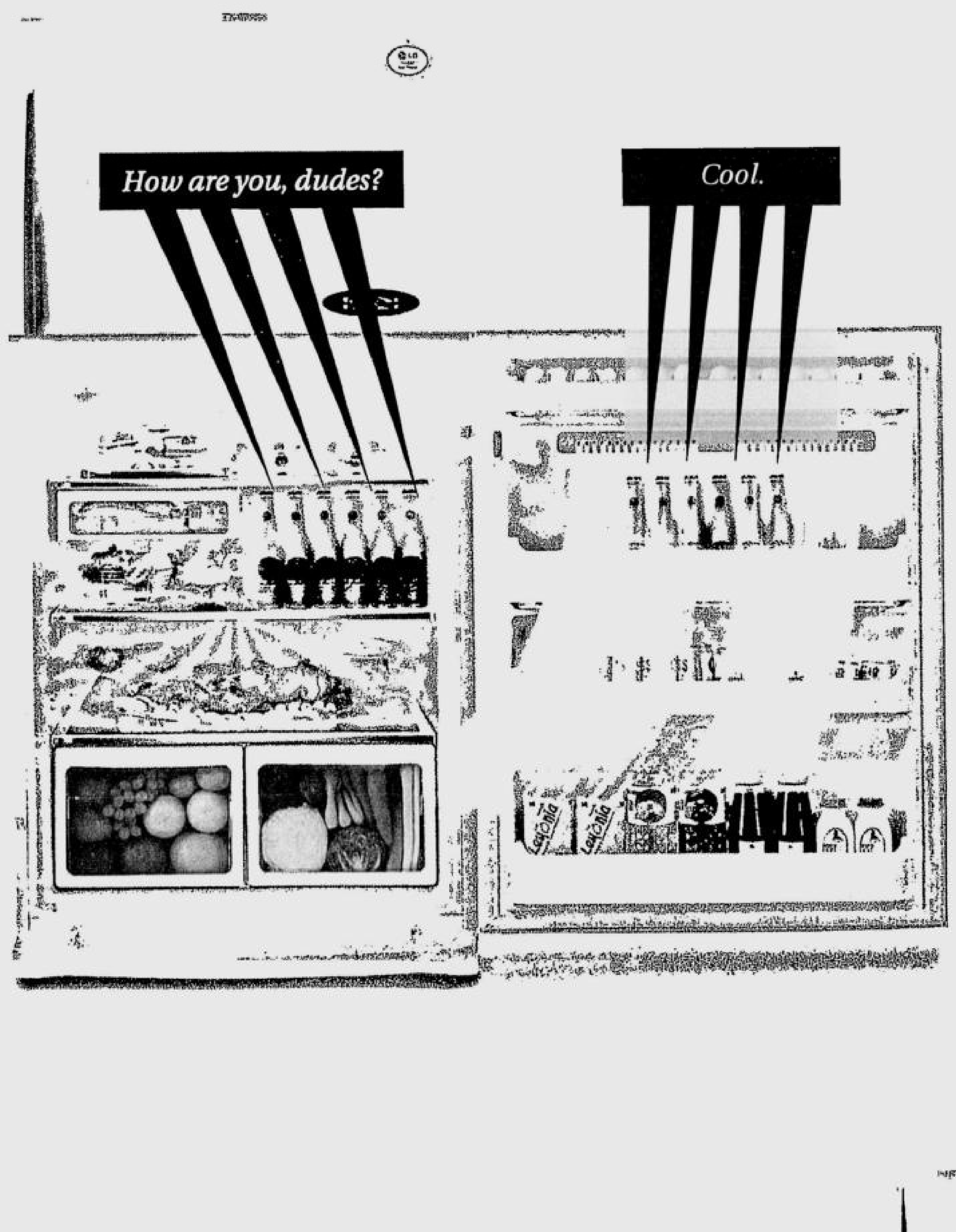

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7 Israelis killed in roadside explosion

EMMANUEL, West Bank—Seven people were killed and more than a dozen injured Tuesday when Palestinians detonated a roadside bomb near an armored bus and then sprayed automatic fire at passengers as they tried to flee, police and military sources said. Witnesses said the gunmen were dressed as Israeli soldiers.

The gunmen fled the scene and were being pursued by army helicopters.

It was the first deadly attack on Israeli civilians since June 20 and came hours before representatives of the so-called "Quartet" committee —including the United States, Russia, the European Union and the United Nations—met in New York to discuss ways of ending more than 21 months of violence.

Medics who rushed to the entrance of the Emmanuel settlement in the northern West Bank quoted the injured as saying that after the initial explosion, several smaller ones went off, followed by shooting, Israel Radio said.

The witnesses said the attackers, about three in all, were dressed in Israel army uniforms and opened fire as the bus passengers tried to escape. The gunmen fled in the direction of Nablus, the report said.

Abraham Cohen, security officer at Emmanuel, said he arrived at the scene a few minutes after the explosion.

"The shooting was still going on and shots were fired at my car. I was lucky to get out of my car before it was hit," he said.

Seven people were killed, said Shahar Ayalon, the police commander in the northern West Bank. Emergency officials said at least 14 people were injured, four of them moderately. The injured included a 2-year-old and a pregnant woman, Israel's Channel One said.

Israel blamed the Palestinian Authority for the attack.

"Israeli civilians continue to be the choice targets of Palestinian terrorists," said David Baker, a spokesman for the government, calling the attack "further proof that the Palestinian Authority considers terrorism a primary mode of operation."

No reaction was immediately available from the Palestinian Authority. Palestinian officials have said that with Israel in control of most of the cities and towns in the West Bank since last month, their security services are powerless to prevent attacks.

An ambush on a bus in the same area Dec. 12 killed 11 Israelis.

In that attack as well, attackers placed a roadside bomb to force the bus to stop, then opened fire as passengers fled. In that ambush, rescue teams were also caught in the shooting. *AP*

Paraguay decrees emergency amid riots

A PARAGUAYAN policeman pushes back a bleeding anti-government demonstrator helping to block a major highway in Caacupe, 60 km east of Asuncion, July 15. The government decreed a state of emergency, suspending some civil rights, after riots broke out when police tried to clear highway roadblocks set up by demonstrators demanding the resignation of President Luis Gonzalez Macchi. REUTERS

ASUNCION, Paraguay—Paraguay's president decreed a state of emergency on Monday, suspending some civil rights after at least four people were shot and seriously injured in spiraling nationwide protests against his economic policies.

Baton-wielding police battled with hundreds of protesters who blockaded roads across the recession-hit South American nation, which often has been rocked by coup attempts and political instability since democracy was restored in 1989 after 35 years of military dictatorship.

President Luis Gonzalez Macchi's government blamed the protests on followers of Lino Oviedo, a former general living in asylum in Brazil suspected of masterminding three failed coups since 1996. Oviedo denied he was involved.

The state of emergency—the first declared by Gonzalez Macchi since a failed coup attempt led by Oviedo's regiment in May 2000—allows the government to ban demonstrations, search homes and arrest individuals over the next five days and gives permission to the armed forces to quell protests.

The riots were the latest in often violent protests against the free market policies of a government that has already been forced to backtrack on its privatization plans. A series of corruption scandals have added to the president's troubles.

Four people including an 11-year-old were treated for bullet wounds after one clash between 800 protesters and police in Ciudad del Este, some 320 km east of Asuncion, when police protesters from Puente de la Amistad bridge that links Paraguay to Brazil, officials said.

Police also fired tear gas and water canon, television showed.

"We came here to say we're tired of so much corruption and poverty. We want this useless president to resign," said one protester outside Congress in the capital, where another 600 protesters demonstrated.

Many of Paraguay's 5.7 million people live in poverty, as subsistence landless farmers. Famed for its rampant smuggling, isolated Paraguay was ruled by military strong man Alfredo Stroessner for 35 years until he was deposed in 1989.

Buffeted by neighboring Argentina's worst-ever economic crisis and Brazil's slumping currency, the California-sized nation devalued its currency this year, adding to the woes of an economy mired in stagnation since 1995.

Paraguay's troubles come as South American nations face a backlash against free market policies of the 1990s. In Brazil, a leftist heads the polls ahead of October presidential elections and in Peru the government last month was forced to suspend privatizations due to violent protests.

The main opposition Liberal party, which controls the vice presidency, said they backed Monday's protesters.

Former Senate head Gonzalez Macchi was appointed president in 1999 when then president Raul Cubas—an Oviedo loyalist—resigned amid violent protests after his vice president, Luis Argana, an avowed Oviedo rival, was slain in Asuncion.

Oviedo had begun a presidential campaign in 1998 but stepped down when he was charged with plotting a coup in 1996.

The next presidential vote is scheduled for May 2003.

The International Monetary Fund, pressing for privatizations, has been negotiating new loans with the government. Congress has also been talking to the World Bank to help shield it from the effects of Argentina's economic woes. *Reuters*

Pentagon report of militaristic China dismissed

BEIJING—The Chinese government insists its defense policy is just that—defensive. A Communist Party newspaper dismisses a Pentagon report raising alarms about the country's military spending as "a wild guess."

Though the United States is worrying about a buildup of mainland China's Armed Forces and its predatory attitude toward Taiwan, experts say a militaristic China is unlikely: Beijing leaders are focused on economic progress.

"The leaders know the only way to keep power is economic growth. War—or any militarization of the region—will prevent foreign capital from coming to China," said Reimund Seidelmann, a China military expert at the University of Giessen in Germany.

China, eager for global acceptance, takes pains to cast itself as an unthreatening nation simply trying to make its "socialist market economy" succeed. It says military progress is natural for a vast nation struggling to modernize since the 1976 death of Mao Zedong.

Yet in March it announced a nearly 18 percent increase in defense spending to $20 billion. Some People's Liberation Army delegates to the National People's Congress said that still was not enough to modernize outdated equipment.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Kong Quan, quoted by official media Monday, said China's defense budget is the lowest among the world's major countries. China, Kong emphasized, shuns the global arms race.

"China is a peace-loving country whose national defense policy is defensive," Kong said.

The Pentagon report, submitted Friday to Congress, disagreed. It said China is spending far more on defense than it acknowledges—up to $80 billion —with more big increases probable in coming years.

The report "affirms what most Chinese already believe about the Bush administration: that it's got a much tougher attitude, a more confrontational approach to dealing with China," said Denny Roy, a senior fellow at the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies in Honolulu.

A Communist Party newspaper dismissed the Pentagon report as "a wild guess." *AP*

Spain warns Morocco over isle

MADRID—Morocco refused Monday to pull its troops from a disputed Mediterranean island it occupied last week despite stern warnings from Spain and the European Union.

Moroccan Foreign Minister Mohamed Benaissa said the "observation post" set up on the rocky outcrop was done in "the framework of exercising the sovereignty of the Moroccan state." The tiny island, not much bigger than a football pitch, has caused a major diplomatic crisis between two countries whose relations are already under deep strain over other disputes.

Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar issued a sharp warning that Madrid would not tolerate the deployment of the dozen troops on the islet, known in Spain as Perejil and as Leila in Morocco.

"Spain will not accept a fait accompli," Aznar told parliament in a state of the union address, adding that it was "essential to return to the status quo before the occupation." A Spanish foreign ministry spokesman said Madrid had received a response to its protest about the arrival of the troops, which Rabat called an effort to clamp down on clandestine emigration and terrorism.

While the spokesman said the letter was "not entirely negative," Deputy Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy said it "contained no mention of reestablishing the former situation and does not take the Spanish request into account." The response "brings no convincing arguments or new elements," Rajoy said, before issuing a new appeal that the Moroccan troops leave the island.

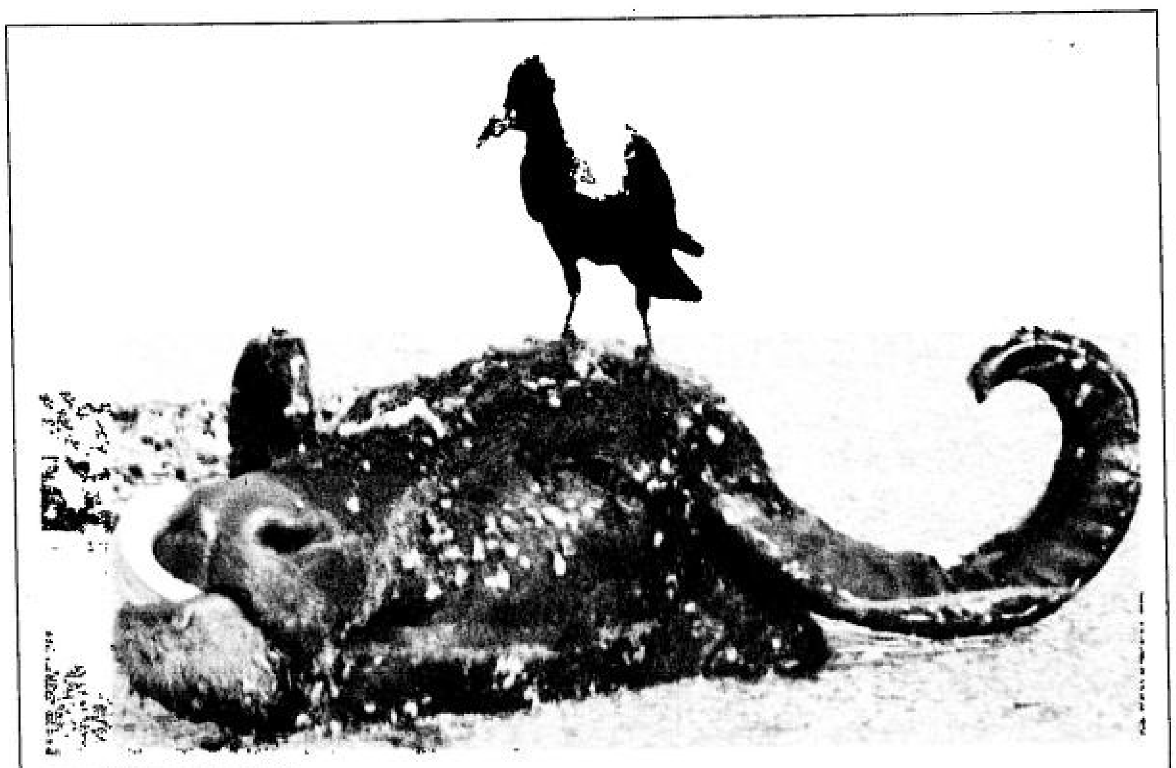
In Brussels, European Commission president Romano Prodi warned "measures could be taken at EU level" if the two countries did not find a diplomatic solution.

Spain has vowed to pursue a claim to the island, off the Spanish enclave of Ceuta, bordering Morocco, and has sent four warships to the area.

Benaissa said Sunday the Spanish reaction was out of proportion and Rabat believed "the situation can be contained by means of dialogue." "Morocco hasn't invaded Spain with 10 soldiers landing on this little rock in Moroccan local waters 180 meters off its coast," Benaissa said.

"It's possible calmly to find a formula to cooperate with Spain on several outstanding problems including Leila Island," the minister suggested.

Spanish Foreign Minister Ana de Palacio responded sharply, urging Benaissa to "take into account what the European Union and Spain have asked him to urgently do and to conduct himself as a partner, a friend and a member of the international community." *AFP*



INDIAN SUMMER

A crow sits on the head of a water buffalo in a pond in Jammu July 15. As temperatures soar as high as 50 degrees Celsius in parts of India, many await the June-September monsoon season, where the country receives about 80 percent of its annual rainfall. REUTERS

Jammu shops close to protest Kashmir killings

AN INDIAN Border Security Force trooper keeps watch from inside his armored vehicle near the Jammu and Kashmir State Legislative Assembly building, in Srinagar July 15. REUTERS

JAMMU, India—Mourners burned funeral pyres for Hindus killed in a weekend massacre in Indian-controlled Kashmir as protesters demanded action against Pakistan and Pakistan-based Islamic militants blamed by India for the killing.

The city of Jammu came to a standstill two days after an attack claimed the lives of 28 Hindus, including 13 women and a child, who were killed by gunmen throwing hand grenades in a crowded slum. Authorities suspect Islamic guerrillas fighting to wrest the mostly Muslim region from Indian control.

As relatives wailed nearby, two of the dead were placed on stacks of wood along a river and cremated in separate Hindu funeral ceremonies. The ashes were then immersed in the river.

The funerals were held as shops and schools in Jammu were closed for noisy demonstrations during which protesters denounced both neighboring Pakistan, which India has long accused of supporting separatists in Kashmir, and the failure of the nation's prime minister to react publicly to the massacre.

"We have sacrificed sons for this soil, this Kashmir is ours!" shouted a local leader of India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party.

Others shouted back: "Down with Pakistan! Down with terrorists! Down with the (Indian) government!"

The death toll in the Saturday evening attack rose to 28 on Monday after another of 30 people wounded in the Qasimnagar shantytown died in a hospital. Many were gathered around television sets watching a cricket match when up to eight Islamic militants started throwing grenades and firing automatic weapons, witnesses said.

No group has claimed responsibility for the incident, the deadliest in the region since a May 14 assault on an army base outside of Jammu that the Indian government also blamed on Islamic separatists.

Police said that the attack was characteristic of the Lashkar-e-Tayyaba, a Pakistan-based Islamic militant group. The group has reportedly denied involvement.

A caller who identified himself a spokesman told a news agency in Kashmir that the police allegation was "baseless and concocted," Press Trust of India reported Monday.

In New Delhi, Parliament adjourned without an expected statement by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee about the massacre. Vajpayee has not publicly reacted, though he did issue a statement Sunday morning to congratulate the Indian cricket team on a victory over England—in the match that was being broadcast at the time of the attack.

Other Indian leaders have linked Pakistan to the gunmen, and there is concern that the attack could raise tensions between nuclear-armed neighbors that were recently on war alert.

"(The) Qasimnagar carnage is a setback to normalization of relations between the two countries," Yashwant Sinha, the Indian foreign minister, said on television.

On Sunday, Sinha said "Pakistan-inspired" militants were to blame. The Indian government accuses Pakistan of arming and funding Islamic separatists who have been fighting since 1989 in the Indian-administered part of Kashmir, a Himalayan region divided between the two countries and claimed by both.

Pakistan, which says it provides only moral and diplomatic support for "freedom fighters" in Kashmir, denied any connection with the attack.

"Pakistan has not allowed its territory to be used by terrorists," Foreign Ministry spokesman Aziz Ahmed Khan said. "We reject such insinuations." *AP*

American Taliban Lindh pleads guilty in plea deal

ALEXANDRIA, Va.—John Walker Lindh, an American captured by US forces during the war in Afghanistan, pleaded guilty on Monday to two charges of aiding the Taliban and carrying explosives, in a surprise plea deal that spared him a possible life prison sentence.

All terrorism charges against Lindh were dropped under terms of the deal, in which Lindh agreed to a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison—10 years for each of the charges.

"I provided my services as a soldier to the Taliban last year from about August to December," the 21-year-old said at the US District Court in Alexandria, Virginia. "In the course of doing so I carried a rifle and two grenades. I did so knowingly and willingly, knowing that it was illegal." District Judge T.S. Ellis set sentencing for Oct. 4. He has the final say in how long Lindh will be required to serve in prison.

Lindh, dressed in a green prisoner jumpsuit, stood at the podium and answered "yes" or "yes, sir" as Ellis summarized the plea agreement and asked a series of questions to ensure Lindh knew by signing it he was giving up his right to a trial.

The two charges Lindh pleaded guilty to included one from the original 10-count indictment—supplying services to the Taliban by fighting in support of the fundamentalist movement—and a new charge of carrying explosives while committing a felony.

REUTERS

LINDH at Camp Rhino in Kandahar, Afghanistan, in December 2001.

Lindh's parents and a brother and sister sat in the second row in the courtroom looking on. After Lindh pleaded guilty and was taken away they gathered together for a group hug.

"He's a really good kid. I am really gratified that the government . . . has decided to drop all of the terrorism charges against my son," Frank Lindh said outside the courthouse.

The deal, reached late on Sunday, was announced at a hearing convened to decide whether any statements made by Lindh while in US custody in Afghanistan should be thrown out. As the hearing began, Lindh's lead defense attorney James Brosnahan stood and announced a deal had been reached.

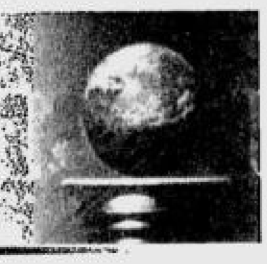
White House officials said President George W. Bush was briefed last Wednesday on the Justice Department's decision to negotiate a plea bargain, and he supported the move.

Both the defense and the prosecution claimed victory.

Defense attorneys pointed to the dropping of terrorism charges, while the prosecution said it showed a tough stand on terrorism and ensured Lindh's cooperation.

US Attorney Paul McNulty said the deal had a provision allowing the government to seize Lindh and hold him as an "enemy combatant" if he engages in any "terrorist" behavior after he is released from prison.

"(This sends) a very strong message to anyone who would be at all tempted to turn their back on the United States and align themselves with the enemies of this country," McNulty said after the hearing ended. *Reuters*



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GLOBALIZATION AND SOUTH EAST ASIA

Thursday, 1 August 2002, 3:00 - 7:00 PM
William Shaw Theater, La Salle (Taft)

Professorial Lecture

DR. CHRISTOPHER REYNOLDS
Business Consultant, and Lecturer on international business and marketing
Doctorate and Master's Degrees, Claremont Graduate University

Commentaries

Globalization and Management Education	Dean Philip E. Julco, La Salle GSB
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Globalization, Culture, and Values	UA&P School of Management
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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon particularly the WEstern section will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Mostly Cloudy	Hi 32°	Lo 23°
Baguio	Monsoon Rains	Hi 26°	Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 35°	Lo 23°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32°	Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Monsoon Rains	Hi 31°	Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Monsoon Rains	Hi 30°	Lo 23°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33°	Lo 24°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32°	Lo 23°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32°	Lo 24°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32°	Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33°	Lo 26°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32°	Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32°	Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudys	Hi 32°	Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34°	Lo 23°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33°	Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/07/17/02

Army exec says NPAs tried to disrupt village, youth polls

CAMP NAKAR, Lucena City—New People's Army rebels tried to disrupt the barangay and youth elections in some areas in Southern Luzon on Monday through various means, a top military official based here said yesterday.

The NPAs staged ambushes, snatched ballots to sow fear and confusion, said Maj. Gen. Roy Kyamko, AFP Southern Luzon Unified Command chief.

Kyamko said at least four members of the Civilian Auxiliary Force Geographical Unit were wounded in an ambush by a still undetermined number of communist rebels in Barangay Dolores, Sta. Cruz, Marinduque late Monday.

He identified the victims as Renante Maning and Mario Malinao who were both hit in the left arm; Romulo-Sanchez who was wounded in the right side of the head; and Joseph Jamig who was slightly wounded in the back.

An election officer identified as Lorna Jalimbawa was also reportedly wounded.

Two more Cafgu members identified only as Malilom and Sadez have been both declared missing in action.

Reports said the victims were traversing the Mogpog-Sta Cruz road on the way to the nearest hospital to bring Jalimbawa who was suffering from severe diarrhea, when the rebels fired upon the group aboard a civilian truck.

Despite injuries, the militiamen still managed to fire back at the rebels.

Reports said the NPA could have mistaken the truck for the vehicle carrying ballot boxes.

Kyamko immediately sent a helicopter to Marinduque to hunt the rebels.

In Romblon, Kyamko said another group of unidentified armed sympathizers of a losing candidate that reportedly enjoyed the support of communist guerrillas operating tried to snatch ballot boxes in Barangay Poblacion, Romblon an hour after the polling place closed.

The Solcom chief said an exchange of gunfire ensued and several of the suspects were seen hurriedly carrying the wounded.

In General Luna, Quezon, local Commission on Elections chair Rowena Manongsong stopped the elections in Barangay Malaya because one of the candidates for barangay captains protested against the election personnel assigned to the polling precincts.

In a Barangay Burgos in Daraga, Albay, at least five communist rebels tried to disrupt the elections but encountered a group of government soldiers.

A gunfight ensued between the two groups, hitting in the crossfire a certain Benita Llarina, 51.

Kyamko said the reports showed how "resolute" the NPAs were. *DelfinMallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Alleged 'jueteng' lord wins in elections

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—Besting eight other candidates, suspected jueteng financier Melchor Caluag was proclaimed on Tuesday the village chief of Barangay Dolores, this city's business and commercial capital.

His winning by a landslide signaled the switch of Caluag, also known as "Ngo-ngo," to politics.

"Call me now Kapitan Melchor, not Ngo-Ngo," the 28-year-old Caluag was quoted as telling his followers on Monday night after the canvassing of votes showed him to be the runaway winner. He got 2,457 votes, according to the Commission on Elections in Pampanga.

Fr. Lennard Flores, parish priest of the Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, took Caluag's victory in stride.

"The people spoke (through their votes). I just have to respect their will," Flores told the INQUIRER by phone on Tuesday.

Flores said there was the barangay council, comprised also of seven *kagawads*, who put a check and balance on the new politician. The priest did not want to say if Caluag's feat virtually "legalized" jueteng in the city, Pampanga's capital.

Caluag, however, made himself scarce to reporters on Tuesday, preferring to relish his success with his family. "The campaign wore him off," said one of his followers, a *cobrador* (jueteng bet collector).

With the victory, Caluag joined the ranks of Pampanga's politicians with supposed involvement in the illegal numbers game.

Senior Supt. Arturo Cacdac, Pampanga police director, is somewhat ambivalent at the thought of having an alleged jueteng operator as an elected official.

"We could not arrest him because no one has come forward to provide the solid evidence that he indeed operates jueteng," Cacdac told reporters.

In this city and nearby Angeles City and in five other big Pampanga towns that are said to be Caluag's turf, he is known as the operator.

Since two years ago, Caluag has been out on bail for violations of Republic Act 1602 or the illegal gambling law.

Caluag lost in his bid for a seat in city council in May 2001. Successful this time, he was said to have funded also the campaign of 19 other candidates for barangay captains, all of whom have won.

This, according to a resident, easily makes Caluag also a tough nut to crack when he aspires to be the chair of the Association of Barangay Captains in this city.

On Monday night right after words spread around that Caluag had clinched the top barangay post, more candidates were placed by jueteng aficionados who believed that Caluag would make many win and increase the prize money at stake.

Allegations of vote-buying, however, hounded Caluag.

On Monday, his poll watchers and campaign staff distributed Caluag's calling cards. According to a source, the recipients of these cards were entitled to "reimburse" P200 from Caluag.

However, none of his opponents had lodged any complaint with the Comelec at press time. ***With reports from Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

UN agency sponsors confab on good urban governance for 114 mayors

LISTLESS over mistakes left and right-political or non-? Well, listen up.

At least 31 of the country's 114 city mayors have been altering leadership styles.

So-called "innovative" City Action Plans have been seeing action-promoting transparency, accountability and civic participation.

Formulated for a year now, these plans have since found a partner in the United Nations-led global campaign on "Good Urban Governance" (GUG).

The campaign, of which the League of Cities in the Philippines (LCP) is co-convenor, will be launched during the league's 38th general assembly on July 19 in Manila.

"It will be more than 'talk shop'," said Francis Tolentino, league head. "Very specific practices will be presented to our development partners-including media." Willing and able, the mayors, Tolentino adds, are submitting themselves to public scrutiny."

It's playing to a familiar refrain actually-reducing poverty in the city-but this time, through GUG.

The UN Development Program (UNDP), the head convenor here, stated: "It is the missing link in between anti-poverty efforts and poverty reduction."

Governance not government alone.

"It includes private sector, civil society and any and all citizens—the powers outside formal authority—managing city affairs at all levels," said Terence Jones, UNDP resident representative. "But GUG emphasizes `process.' Decisions are based on the complex ties among them."

The campaign illustrates in "strategical detail" the "Inclusive City—a place where man, woman and child have access to the basic in urban life . . . and enabled to participate productively in opportunities city can offer."

"While important, neither money , technology nor expertise but good governance that realizes it," Jones stressed. "It is the *sine quo non* for sustainable human settlements development."

Even the most "traditional" of politicians have been taking the campaign to heart.

Tolentino said not a few have been singing a different tune, "and on the right note."

"The campaign have been changing mindsets."

"Secure Tenure." a parallel global campaign also to be launched, "mainstreams" the teeming but "excluded" urban poor in city governance "as they are not mere beneficiaries of anti-poverty programs but active partners in solving poverty."

NDF goes public with criticism of gov

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—The National Democratic Front (NDF) in Central Visayas launched its first open criticism of Gov. Erico Aumentado, calling for his ouster and describing him "an enemy of the Boholanos."

The NDF made the accusation in a press statement sent to the INQUIRER Friday. It was signed by Vide Alguna, who gave his position as NDF Visayas political consultant.

Military sources had identified this as the *nom-de-guerre* of the region's top cadre Roy Erecre before he was allegedly promoted to the Communist Party of the Philippines higher organ.

The NDF claimed that in his capacity as governor and chair of the Regional Development Council for Central Visayas, Aumentado "has accelerated the sell-out of Bohol to imperialist interests, principally that of Japanese foreign monopoly capitalists, making himself a more worthy inheritor of reactionary rule than his predecessor."

The NDF also scored the dam and watershed projects of the provincial government that, it said, threaten to displace tens of thousands of farmers and their families.

"Aquatic resource management programs that either outrightly deny fisherfolk of their daily subsistence or impose heavy tax burdens on them; among others, are hallmarks of his administration," the NDF statement added.

Aumentado, the NDF alleged, facilitated the "massive build-up" of soldiers and aggressive recruitment of paramilitary men in the province.

The NDF also scored the governor for the alleged "suppression of legitimate dissent" that even his own provincial board had to investigate human rights violations allegedly committed by the police and the military in many areas in the province.

BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

RIGHT TO VOTE
His disability did not deter this voter from taking part in yesterday's synchronized barangay and youth elections in Davao City.

Victims of killer quake remembered

BAGUIO CITY—Artists, residents and officials here gathered at the Burnham Park on Tuesday and held the annual "Atang ti Karurua" to offer prayers to the victims of the 1990 killer earthquake.

In the annual "Atang" (an offering for the souls of those who passed away), the Baguio artists placed three bamboo rafts, adorned with flowers and candles, at the Burnham Lake as offering for those who were killed by the earthquake.

On July 16, 1990, scores of people were killed by the Intensity 7.7 earthquake in Baguio City and the rest of Northern Luzon at 4:26 p.m. DST (The country was then observing daylight saving time due to the energy crisis).

Visual artist Kawayan de Guia created banners and prayer flags with inscription of tales of the past "atangs."

De Guia dedicated his offering this year to his friends, Tihani Tingal and Giancarlo Leung, the University of the Philippines College Baguio graduates who were abducted and murdered last year.

The murder case has not been solved although police arrested several men in connection with it.

Benhur Villanueva, a Baguio-based sculptor, said the "atang" served as an offering for an enlightened government and politics.

"But I want to dedicate this offering to the serious politicians who mean well for our people," Villanueva said.

The late installation artist Roberto Villanueva started the "Atang ti Karurua" in 1991, a year after the killer quake struck the city.

The earthquake also killed scores of people in Dagupan City. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Raps filed vs 3 cops, agent for abducting Canadian

By Kathy I. Navarro
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Charges have been filed against three policemen and a civilian agent of the Regional Anti-Narcotics Office in Central Visayas (Rano) for abducting a Canadian national and extorting P100,000 from him in exchange for his freedom.

The three had also been dismissed.

Complaints for robbery, extortion, illegal detention and physical injuries had been filed against PO2 Raul Gador, PO1 Stephen Taneo, PO1 Benedict Modina and civilian asset Jose Montalban before the Office of the Ombudsman-Visayas.

A Canadian national, Ghotbaddin Hassanpoor, 43, a pharmacy student from one of the local universities in Cebu, accused the four of kidnapping him. He claimed that the four demanded P100,000 in exchange of his freedom.

Hassanpoor identified the three policemen from a group of Rano operatives who were asked to line up at their office. He identified Modina, who was not in the police lineup, through a photo.

Elements of the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf) immediately arrested the three police officers. Modina was arrested the following day at 3 a.m. in his residence.

Hassanpoor, a native of Toronto, Canada, said the four kidnapped him on June 28 at 6:10 a.m. He said he was walking in Barangay Lahug, Cebu City when a gray Nissan Vanette (with plate number PHA 808) suddenly blocked his path and the four Rano personnel forced him to board the vehicle.

"I was struggling not to go inside the van, I was shouting for police to help but they told me they are the police. But I did not believe them because they do not have uniforms," the foreigner said.

While inside the van, the Canadian said Gador started to demand money from him, threatening that drug charges will be filed against him if he could not produce the amount they asked for.

Feeling helpless and fearful for his life, the foreigner agreed to go to his bank, the Equitable Bank near SM City in North Reclamation Area, to withdraw P100,000.

However, the bank required him to show his passport before he was allowed to withdraw such amount, so the group accompanied him to his apartment along Elizabeth Pond Street.

"One of the managers sensed that something was wrong, he came to me and asked if there was something wrong and I said 'no, I'm okay' because the police said that if I show some emotion, they will do something," he said.

"I wanted to do something, I wanted to ask help but I was afraid that there were people in the bank and they might be hurt," Hassanpoor added.

As soon as the group left the bank, Hassanpoor said his abductors divided the money among themselves. He said he was freed around 5 p.m. but he said he was warned not to tell anybody about the incident or he would be killed.

MILF hits AFP for ambuscade story

COTABATO CITY—There was no ambush and the military was lying when it reported that three soldiers and a militiaman were wounded in a clash with Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels in Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao last week.

This was the reaction of MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu to a military claim that rebels ambushed soldiers in Sitio Gubat, Barangay Baka on July 12, wounding four government troopers.

"There was no ambush or encounter. What really happened was an explosion from a grenade launcher (M79 rifle)," said Kabalu, adding that the incident "could either be accidental or a scenario by the military."

"That's why we demand that an impartial investigation be conducted so we will know the truth about the military report blaming the MILF to be the aggressor and violator of an existing ceasefire agreement," Kabalu said.

He said the military wanted to create a scenario of MILF commanders violating the May 6-7 ceasefire accords signed in Kuala Lumpur to derail the ongoing peace negotiations between the government and the MILF.

The military said MILF Commanders Rambo and Datukon and Sammy Tilaka, a kidnap gang leader, led the attack.

Kabalu assured that these MILF commanders were willing to be investigated.

Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, debunked Kabalu's allegation that the incident was "scenario-making."

"We have casualties," said Ando. *Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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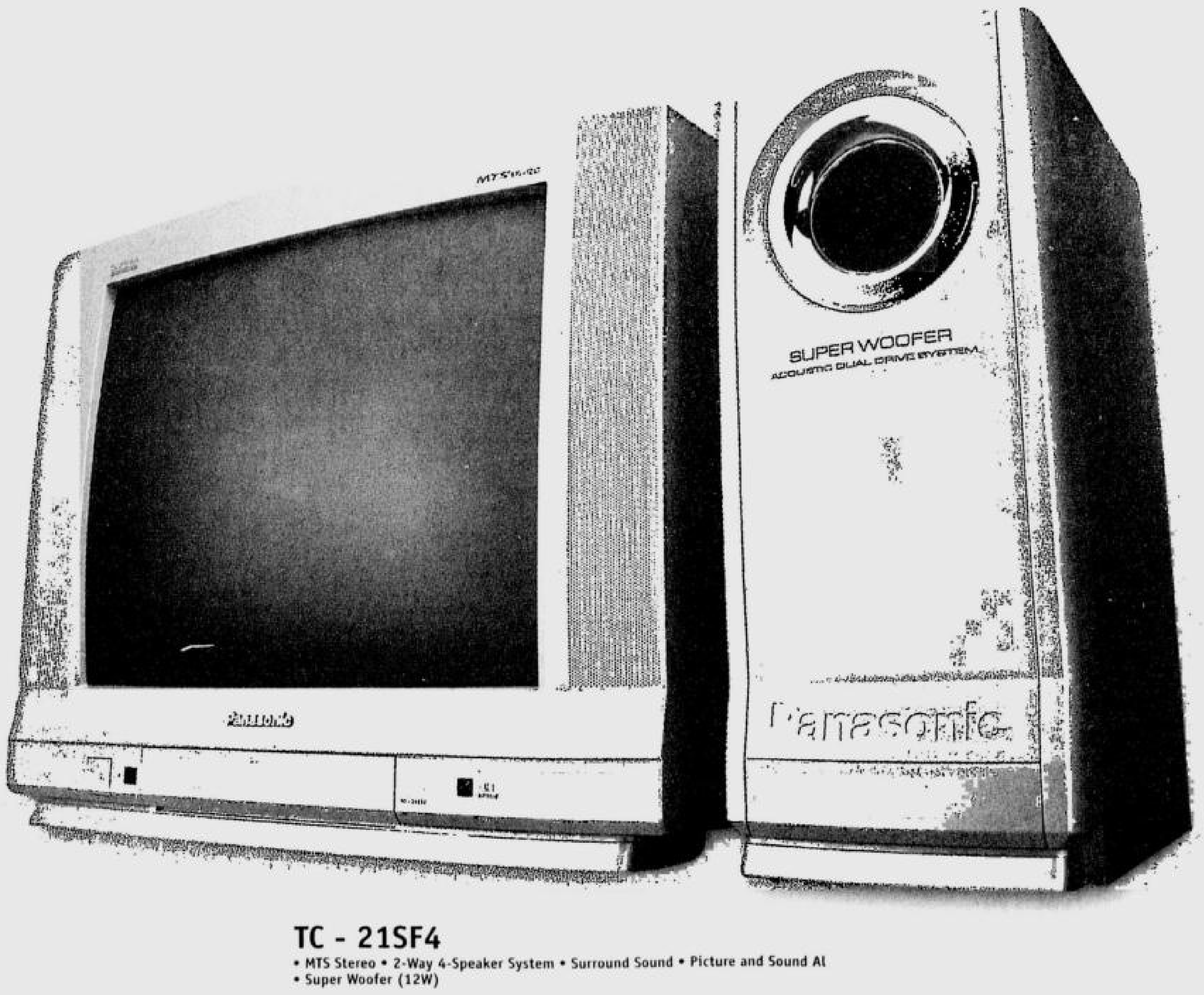

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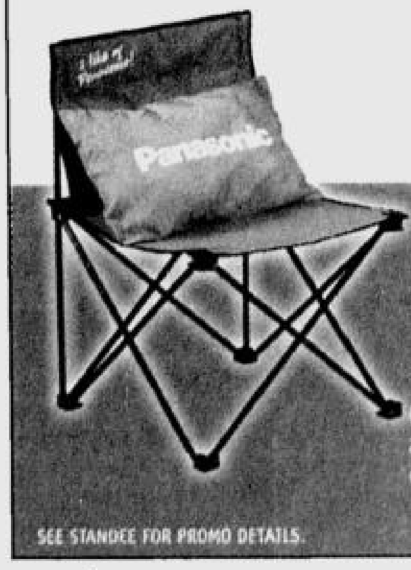

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Special Report

Philippine-Iraq trade to resume soon

TRADE may finally resume between the Philippines and Iraq, despite the latter being under embargo, with the setting up of Uruk-Phil International, a company that is promoting Philippine products and bringing in Filipino companies in Iraq.

The company was set up by former Ambassador Reynaldo "Boy" Parungao after his stint as envoy to Baghdad early this year. "Most countries in the world, including the closest allies of the United States, are doing business with Iraq under the Oil for Food Program of the United Nations. There is no reason why Filipino companies cannot participate in the Iraqi market," Parungao explained.

Parungao said that despite the economic sanctions imposed by the UN on Iraq after the Gulf War, there are many opportunities for trade with the Philippines. He said Iraq, a country of 25 million people, imports almost all of its consumer and industrial requirements, being mainly an oil producer.

He said more than US$40 billion worth of goods and services have already been traded under the UN Oil for Food Program. Under the program, Iraq is allowed to export its oil under strict UN supervision. The proceeds of the oil exports, however, are held and disbursed only by the UN based on a schedule of purchases and contracts made by the Iraqi government.

Parungao explained that doing business through the UN is safest because payments are easy and assured even if Iraq itself is in trouble. He said that the moment shipments are made, the UN immediately deposits the payments in escrow in the name of the suppliers and contractors, and may be withdrawn as soon as the shipments arrive at their ports of destination.

Uruk-Phil is now in the process of registering with the Iraqi government some 28 local firms involved in the manufacture and supply of various lines of products and services. Parungao said the target of Uruk-Phil is to organize up to 50 Filipino companies to participate in various facets of the Iraqi market.

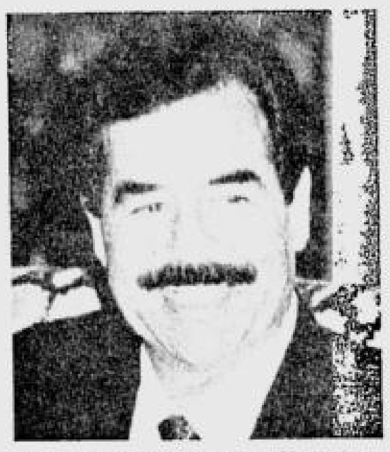
Amidst US threats

Iraq marks National Day

DESPITE the American bellicose language and amidst threats of invasion, the Socialist Republic of Iraq and its leader President Saddam Hussein survives yet another year. In fact today, July 17, Iraq commemorates the 34th anniversary of the 1968 Revolution that installed to power Saddam Hussein's Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party.

In Manila, Abdul Karim Shwaikh, *charge d'Affaires* of the Iraqi Embassy in the Philippines, said the affair will be marked here with a simple reception at the Dusit Hotel in Makati City.

Shwaikh said that despite mounting pressure from the US, the relationship between the Philippines and Iraq is improving. He said that many Filipino companies are now interested to look into the Iraqi market under the Oil for Food Program of the United Nations, some of which have already been registered with the Iraqi government.



Iraq President Saddam Hussein

The registered companies, according to Shwaikh, will now be eligible for participation in the program. More than US$40 billion worth of goods and services, ranging from food, medicines, machineries and infrastructure contracts, have already been awarded under the program.

Last year, more than 70 Philippine companies held an exclusive trade fair in Baghdad exhibiting Philippine-made products, which drew much interest from the Iraqis. The event was made possible through efforts of former Philippine Ambassador to Baghdad Reynaldo "Boy" Parungao and former Iraqi Ambassador to Manila Dr. Salah Al-Samarmad.

The Philippines currently has no trade presence in the Iraqi market of about 25 million people who rely mainly on imported goods and services since the comprehensive economic embargo imposed on the country by the UN Security Council in 1990 after the Gulf War. Before the war, Philippine-Iraqi trade was worth about US$50 million annually, with about 40,000 overseas Filipino workers in the oil-rich country. Only a few OFWs remain, all of whom are employed in various UN programs.

Under the Oil for Food Program, Iraq is allowed to export its oil but the proceeds of which are held in escrow by the UN. It is through the UN that Iraqi imports of essential goods and services are paid. The Iraqi government has no direct control over its oil revenues.

Iraq exports about three million barrels of crude oil daily. UN officials have admitted that almost half of the Iraqi crude shipments end up in American shores, thus making Iraq a major source of fuel for the US, which is conserving its own oil resources.

Despite the Oil for Food program, the Iraqi government has reported of more than 1.6 million deaths because of the embargo that has caused severe shortages of food, medicine and lack of healthcare supplies and sanitation equipment.

Global clamor for the lifting of the embargo has recently forced the UN to liberalize the entry of civilian and consumer goods to the country but, upon US pressure, put more restrictions on industrial supplies and machineries. The move is seen by many Iraqi officials and their allies as a double-edged scheme that condemns Iraq to being a consumerist society while stunting the country's industrial recovery.

Bombs over Eden

THE Garden of Eden, it is said, is located where four ancient rivers, including the Tigris and Euphrates converge. Biblical notes say *Eden*, a Sumerian word for "fertile plain," is a region in Southern Mesopotamia.

Mesopotamia is now known as, or part of, Iraq. Could it be then that Creation started in Iraq?

If not Creation, historians are certain that civilization started in Mesopotamia, later known as Ur, and now Iraq. It was here where many of mankind's most valuable heritage originated. Like writing, lawmaking, literature, mathematics, pottery and many others.

Later known as Ur, it was the birthplace of Prophet Abraham, the biblical Father of all Nations.. Ruins of the House of Abraham still exist, but were reported to have been looted during the Gulf War by invading American soldiers.

Many other major prophets were born in the land that is now Iraq. Ancient Christian churches and monasteries said to be among the oldest in the world still exist in Mosul, some 400 kilometers north of Baghdad. Today, no less than seven Christian denominations continue to preach openly in Iraq, including the Caldean Catholics, said to be the oldest catholic denomination.

Some 250,000 Iraqis are Christians, the most prominent of whom is concurrent Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Azis, a Roman Catholic.

*****

IRAQI civilization is already about 8,000 years. Iraq is site of many ancient relics and ruins, and many more archeological treasures await discovery.

When Alexander the Great first arrived at the ancient City of Babylon, he was so awed and enamored by the majesty of the city that when he was wounded in battle somewhere in Central Asia, he retreated with his army back to Babylon where he died.

But it seemed that the US, which has only a little more than 200 years of history, had no respect of Iraq's long history and very rich cultural heritage. During the Gulf War, some of the oldest and most precious historical, cultural and religious sites were bombed, including mosques, churches and museums.

*****

IN terms of natural resources, Iraq could be the Eden, the biblical Garden of Paradise, where all sorts of plants thrive. Because of the rivers Tigris and Euphrates, Iraq has large tracts of fertile lands that can grow almost anything, in contrast to the barren arid lands of other Middle Eastern countries.

Waters coming from the two rivers as well as the presence of many natural and man-made lakes enable Iraq to produce fresh water fishes. Large carps broiled in slow fire called *masguff* is a delicacy in Iraq.

While Tigris and Euphrates rivers feed Iraq with fresh water for its farms and drinking supplies, it is said that water may soon become a major issue of conflict. A dam built in Turkey through British and Israeli funds have diverted the waters flowing to the Tigris that now the water level of the river is less than half than before.

Congratulations to the Socialist Republic of Iraq on its 34th National Day

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Living dangerously in Iraq

Text and photos by Danilo de Austria Consumido

BAGHDAD, IIRAQ — TO the relief of many Iraqi commuters, new taxicabs of Korean-made cars now ply the streets of Baghdad. But majority of the vehicles are still the old and beat up but reliable Volkswagen Passat, circa 1970s, a symbol of sorts of the staying power of the resilient but battered Iraqi people.

In Arasat, the shopping district of Baghdad, a few more signs of life are noticeable. New shops selling designer suits and shoes. Ongoing facelifting of a few buildings. More people eating in restaurants. And, increasing prices. Signs of life, probably of progress, that recently caused American and British officials to raise alarm and complain that the economic sanctions against Iraq, which have already reportedly caused 1.6 million deaths, have not been very effective as designed and desired.

As designed meant starving people queuing up for rations at dusk, sick children and old people crowding hospital corridors, factories stilled by blackouts. As desired meant more people getting desperate and angry. People rallying against government. Riots. Emergence of an internal resistance force, like the Northern Alliance of Afghanistan, which could figuratively sweep off the mines before the US troops finally, and perhaps triumphantly, march in.

BUT the ordinary Iraqi people simply want to survive and probably benefit from the little comforts and economic improvements trickling in, despite the sanctions. Sa'ad, a taxi and motor shop operator married to a Filipina, is now thinking about selling his old cab to buy as replacement a new Korean car sold by government at subsidized prices.

A mechanical engineer and former army colonel who is also named Sa'ad simply wants to make life a little better for his wife and two children, and is now working with Uruk-Phil, a Philippine company, to help market Filipino products and services in Iraq.

"Why can't they (the US) leave us alone?" wailed a university professor teaching mathematics and computer studies. A Catholic and a pioneer of the Couples for Christ, a Christian organization originating from the Philippines, (religion is freely exercised in Iraq) the professor said Iraq could easily recover economically and surpass even Saudi Arabia and Egypt in a few years if left alone by the US which, he said, is only after Iraq's oil. Iraq is believed to, have bigger oil deposits than Saudi Arabia.

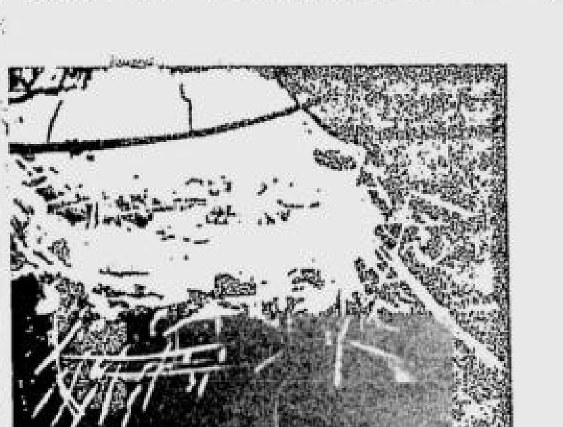
Even the recent threats of US President George W. Bush of an all-out military action against Iraq to oust Saddam Hussein are met with nonchalance by the Iraqi people. "We know that Bush is having a hard time convincing his allies to go by his plan to attack us," said Nasra Al-Saadon, editor of the Iraq Daily, the country's lone English newspaper. "But Bush is an x-factor. He may just do it alone. What can we do?" she shrugged.

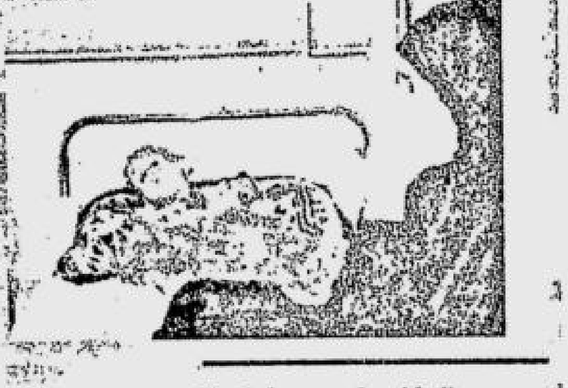
The US plan to enlist the Kurds, ala-Northern Alliance, in its blueprints of invasion against Iraq has been facing difficulties. Few of the Kurd leaders trust the Americans, after their bitter experience in 1990 when they were left alone by the Americans after bringing them to war with Saddam, wherein they were routed. In fact, many Kurd leaders are now quietly doing business under Saddam's government.

Sheik Al-Jaff, leader of the 3.5 million Al-Jaff tribe, one of the biggest Kurdish tribes in Iraq, is running several companies involved in oil, construction, ranching, travel and tourism. It was Al-Jaff, a handsome blonde who looks more European than Iraqi, who facilitated the travel of a group of Filipino entrepreneurs for an exhibition of Philippine products in Baghdad last year, foregoing any profits from the endeavor, out of his friendship with former Philippine Ambassador Reynaldo Parungao.

Ironically, the remarkable resilience of the Iraqis under the embargo, and under the American gun, has made a young British University professor, who professed to be a friend of the Iraqi people, to complain during an international conference in Baghdad last May. In the conference, which was attended by solidarity organizations in about 50 nations, the professor complained of difficulty in visualizing the plight of the Iraqi people for purposes of posters and campaign materials because the Iraqis seem to be succeeding in jumping over the humps of the embargo.

But if Bush will have his way, the little signs of life flickering over Iraq can get snuffed. The visuals of death, bombed out villages, maimed bodies and people with dazed eyes will once again be aplenty.





Top left, pretty Iraqi ladies admiring Philippine-made herbal soap. Unlike their counterparts in most Middle Easter countries, Iraqi women are free to enjoy fashion and beauty products. At top right, the hole of death caused by US smart bombs that killed 400 people, mostly children, at the Al-Ameriya shelter in 1991. Inset, school boys jostling for a snapshot. The Al-Ameriya shelter is seen at the back. Left, a woman in the urban poor district of Baghdad baking pita, the traditional Iraqi bread. Right, a mother shrouded in black, like death hovering over her child sick of leukemia reportedly caused by depleted uranium used against Iraq by American-led forces during the Gulf War.

INQUIRER *Northern Luzon*

Editor **Jun Bandayrel** *Bureau Chief* **Rolando B. Fernandez**

Pampanga's unending battle with floods

By Tonette Orejas
Guagua, Pampanga

DINA Espejo, 36, saw something unfamiliar on July 5 when she decided to move her three children and her mother-in-law to the chapel of San Pablo in Guagua, Pampanga, deep in the night.

"The water suddenly rose and it never stopped rising. Two hours after we evacuated, the water was almost chest-deep," she recalled, as she fixed the hair of her eldest child, 8-year-old Queen.

Her two other children, aged 5 and 3, slept on the pews without mats. The only comforts were borrowed clothes and blankets, and sleeping next to the dry altar.

"Everything was wet, floating. I wasn't able to save our clothes," she said.

What saved the entire brood was her being alert as heavy rains began pounding hard on their leaking roof. Used to regular flooding in Guagua, which old Kapampangan folk called Wawa (mouth of the river), Espejo and her husband stayed awake for the rest of the night.

When the water rapidly rose, they plucked the children and Apong Gari, 71, to safety. To save the few belongings that the family had, Espejo locked the doors and windows to just let their things float inside the house and never be carried by the current.

Wading in chest-deep water the next day, she retrieved her gas stove and pots. "I also took our wet clothes which needed three days of drying. In the meantime, I borrowed clothes," she said.

Like eight other families who evacuated to the chapel, the Espejos feasted on *tilapia* that were either bought cheap or caught in floodwaters.

Relief came only on July 9 when President Macapagal-Arroyo came.

Help needed

"We really needed help. But of course, food assistance is not enough. Something must be done about the flood that was worse now," she told the INQUIRER.

It wasn't only the inconveniences that bothered Espejo even when she was used to the regular bouts of floods. "It's different this time. Water rose fast and it ebbed slowly," she said.

Luchi Gutierrez, chief of the Department of Social Welfare and Development in Pampanga, noticed that distinct change as well.

She traced it to two things. First, Pampanga, right in the middle of Central Luzon plains, is a catch basin. Second, its river channels are clogged by enormous silt.

Geologists said Mt. Pinatubo's eruptions in 1991 spewed out between five and seven cubic kilometers of pyroclastic debris. The debris, covering the volcano's flanks, is loosened by rains yearly to nine rivers of Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales.

But Pampanga's case is entirely different. While rivers in Zambales immediately drain to the South China Sea, rivers in Tarlac flow out to Pampanga. Also, the major rivers of Central Luzon head toward Pampanga before these drain out to the Manila Bay.

Japanese engineers noted the intricate and expansive system. The firm Nippon Koei said the Pampanga River Basin, with a drainage area of 9,759 square kilometers, occupies the eastern half of the region.

The basin gathers water from Angat, Penaranda, Coronel, Digmala and Pantabangan rivers on the east. The Rio Chico, Talavera and Carranglan rivers feed it from the west. In between, there are the large Candaba and San Antonio swamps.

Angat, which drains the southeastern side, converges with the Pampanga River before heading out to the bay.

The history of Kapampangans, originally dwellers on the "pampang (riverbanks)," is replete with epidemics and calamities, according to historians. Kapampangans are no strangers to nature's wrath. Most of them experience floods triggered by the swelling of the Pampanga River.

Taming the river

Records showed that in 1938, the then Bureau of Public Works and the US Corps of Engineers formulated a flood control plan "utilizing the retarding capacity" of the Candaba and San Antonio swamps, both in eastern Pampanga.

In 1962, the BPW, the US Bureau of Reclamation and the United States Agency for International Development conducted and reviewed a feasibility study for river control and reclamation of the Pampanga River.

From 1966 to 1989, more studies were done until finally, the Japanese government agreed to fund the Pampanga Delta Development Project. It has two components: Flood-control on the downstream and irrigation through a diversion dam on the upstream.

The Pam[illegible] side of the first component wa[illegible] hile the Bulacan and lack of funds. The second, completed after 26 years, is due for inauguration this month.

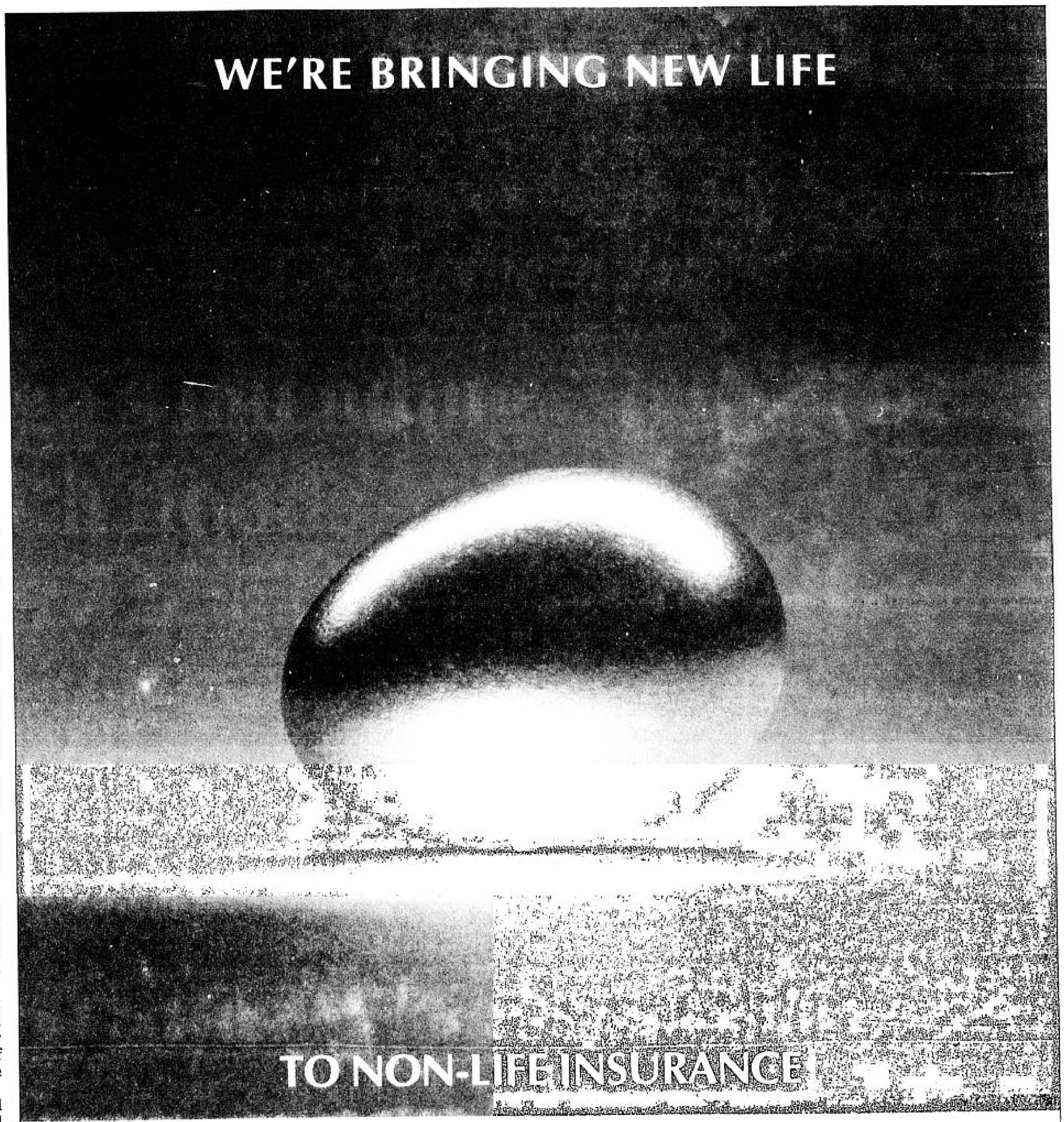
Were these interventions enough to ease flooding? No.

There is prolonged, severe flooding in Pampanga because another delta area, called the Pasac-Guagua, is not only overly silted in the last 11 years, according to the Department of Public Works and Highways.

"(The other) major causes of flooding in the delta communities are poor drainage systems, channel constrictions by houses, land improvements and other structures that encroach (on) waterways, dumping of solid wastes that result to siltation and shallowing of channels," the DPWH said in a report.

"Ultimately, these slow down the flood flow," said the report that was completed last June.

PAMPANGA folk are no strangers to floods like this one in Dagupan City.
TOOTS SOBERANO



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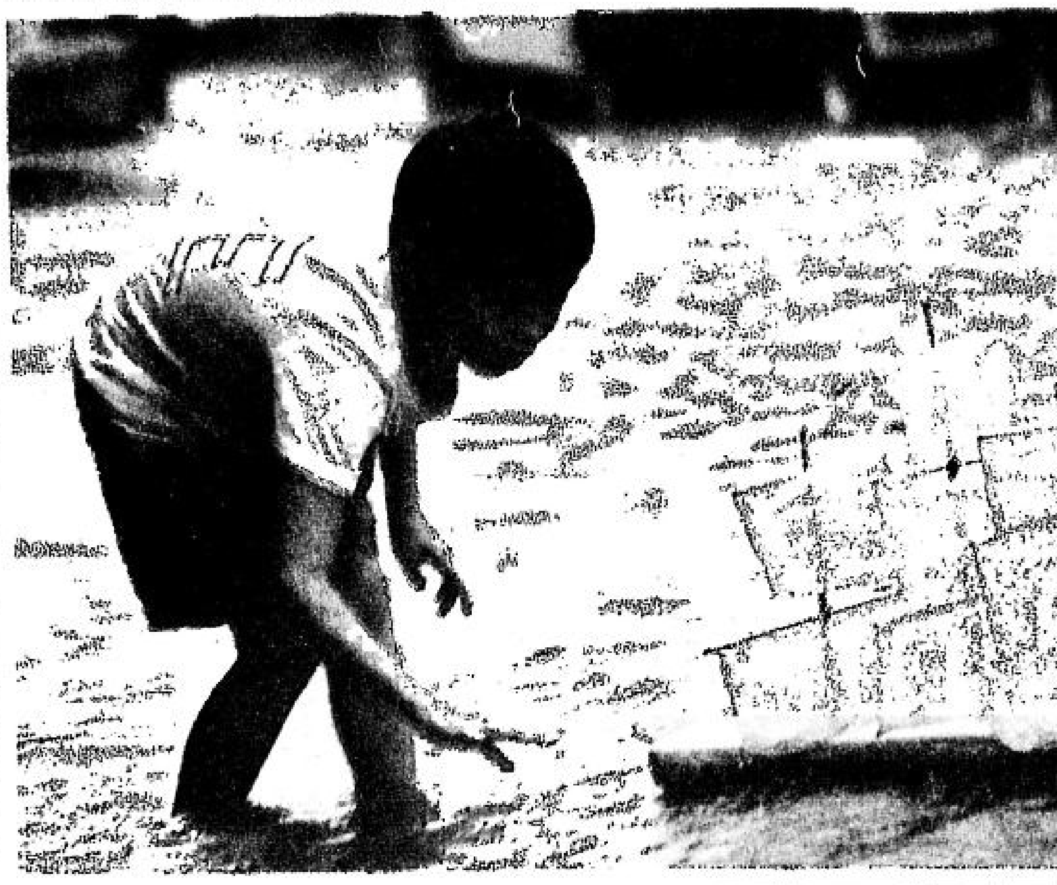
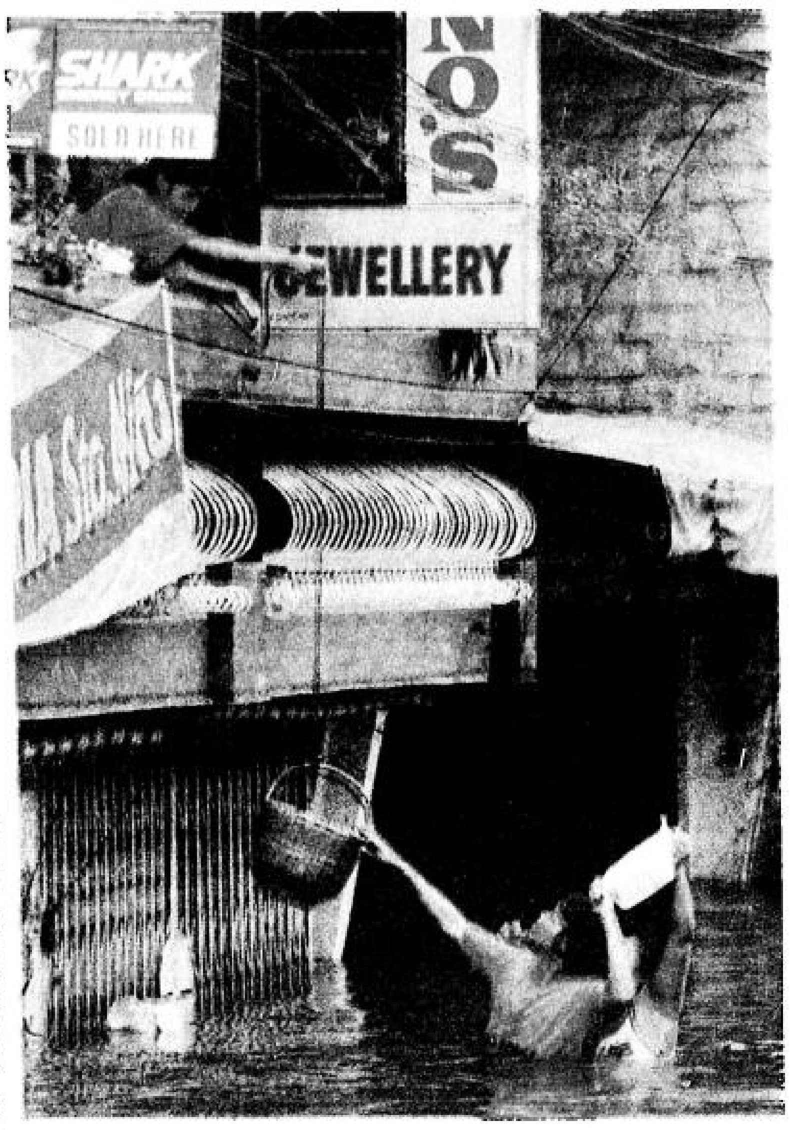




HERE COME THOSE RAINY DAYS
Child's play (below) in the midst of the grime of flooded streets in Malabon. High and dry, buyer (far right) gets her supply from vendors doing business in waist-deep waters in Guagua, Pampanga. Houses (at right) are stuck in flood waters in another town in Pampanga, Minalin. DENNIS SABANGAN/ERIK ARAZAS

Gloria: Yes, corruption exists in RP

From page A1

businessmen are telling me about it. They also have complaints about it," Ms Macapagal said. "When we talk about it, he brings it out," she said in reference to Ricciardone and the issue of corruption.

Makati Business Club (MBC) executive director Guillermo Luz said that Ricciardone was not the first to cite the problem, and that "it will be repeated by other people as long as it is not licked."

"The level of graft and corruption in the country is as bad as what the US ambassador says it is," Luz said. "But this is bad not only for foreign investors but also for local investors."

Ricciardone told Manila-based foreign correspondents on Monday that investors were shying away from the country because of "corruption, not just regarding the courts but also officials outside" the judiciary.

It is "a real problem," he said.

But as far as Presidential Anti-Graft Commission chair Dario Rama is concerned, the problem of graft and corruption is not as widespread and deep-rooted as painted to be.

"My boss is honest and therefore people all the way down the government (hierarchy) will be honest," Rama said in a phone interview. "*Takot lang nila* (They're afraid of being found out)."

Rama said this also applied to the judiciary. "Aside from an honest President, we also have an honest Chief Justice in the person of Hilario Davide Jr. The Supreme Court is doing all it can to discipline judges," he said.

Surveys

Luz said that over the last two years, the MBC had conducted with the Social Weather Stations two surveys on the extent of corruption in the country.

He said both surveys showed the pervasiveness of corruption in the private and public sectors.

Luz concurred in Ricciardone's view that corruption was widespread, particularly in the judiciary. He cited the abuse by certain individuals or groups of the issuance of temporary restraining orders, and the bribes offered in exchange for favorable decisions.

But Luz noted the vast improvement in the performance of the Supreme Court since Davide took over.

The July 2002 survey showed that the high court was ranked No. 7 among 33 government agencies and corporations with a positive rating of plus 40 (the difference between the number of satisfied and dissatisfied respondents).

This is in sharp contrast to the low ranking of the appeals and lower court system, which placed No. 22 in the ranking with a negative rating of minus 53.8 percent.

"The judiciary has to shape up in terms of speeding up the whole system that moves too slowly and unpredictably, which makes it prone to corruption," Luz said.

On Ricciardone's comment on non-tariff barriers against foreigners, specifically equity limits on foreign investments, Luz said Philippine laws were fairly consistent with the restrictions imposed by other countries.

"Our economy is virtually open to all foreign investors except for a few areas such as media and land ownership, but the laws also provide ways to get into these areas," he said.

For example, foreigners can lease property up to 75 years or buy condominiums, he said, adding: "There might be impediments to investment, but only to some areas."

Luz also said that while businessmen were pleased with the President's performance in her 18 months in office, they were concerned that security problems, politicking and widespread corruption "have a potential to drag or slow us down."

"We can't afford to be complacent because we can't get caught up by our domestic problems as the global economy picks up," he said.

'A lot of problems'

In the interview with radio dzRH, the President admitted that "our country has a lot of problems."

She cited peace and order, the high costs of power and utilities like water, and competitiveness.

But she said that despite these problems, she was bent on putting up a "strong republic"—her recurring theme since certain civil society groups expressed agitation over her administration's perceived accommodation of allies of her ousted predecessor.

Rama also said that the Office of the Ombudsman—whose jurisdiction covers everyone from the President down to the lowest government janitor—and the PAGC—which handles cases involving presidential appointees from assistant regional directors to Cabinet members—were doing their bit to clean up the government.

He said the PAGC had completed the investigation of 171 cases as of May 30 and had transmitted the results to the Office of the President for final action.

The PAGC has 21 pending cases at present, and Rama noted that if one were to base an assessment of graft and corruption on this number, "we cannot conclude that there is widespread corruption in the government."

"We are addressing the problem," he said. "The situation is not all that bleak."

SC: We're cracking down on 'hoodlums in robes'

By Donna S. Cueto

THE SUPREME Court yesterday defended itself and the lower courts from allegations of corruption, claiming that it had been intensifying efforts to weed out "hoodlums in robes."

Ismael G. Khan Jr., assistant administrator and information chief of the tribunal, said it had penalized a total of 352 judges for "committing various offenses" from 1999 until early this year.

He said 22, including a justice of the Court of Appeals, had been dismissed from the service; 19, including two Sandiganbayan justices, had been relieved or suspended; 43 had been reprimanded; and 189 had been fined.

Khan said Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. had been conducting dialogues with judges and court personnel throughout the country on elevating the standard of excellence in the judiciary since he assumed the post in November 1998.

According to Khan, US Ambassador Frank Ricciardone's observation of corruption in the Philippines, particularly in the judiciary, should present an "opportunity for the United States to intensify its participation in the judicial reform program."

"Just as important as attracting foreign investments, the Supreme Court gives no quarter in its combat against graft and corruption to purge the bench and the bar of abusive members because the Filipino people certainly deserve nothing less than a clean and efficient judiciary," Khan said.

He also said the tribunal had launched its "Action Program for Judicial Reform."

Lawmakers resent corruption tag, slam US envoy

From page A1

According to Lozada, Ricciardone should be reminded that he is a diplomat, not a politician.

"He's competing with our politicians, taking the pulpit and lecturing us. Maybe he should first run for barangay captain," Lozada said.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo took the ambassador's statement as Washington's "signal to the (Philippine) government to deal with corruption."

But the party-list representative pointed out that Ricciardone's remark on constitutional barriers to foreign investment could be used to justify proposed moves to amend the 1987 Constitution.

"What he said was an indirect pressure for proponents of charter change to include economic provisions," Ocampo said, adding that progressive groups would beef up their resistance to the plan.

On the other hand, Senate President Franklin Drilon said there was nothing offensive in the ambassador's remarks.

"We should not be onion-skinned about a legitimate concern," Drilon said at a press conference. "Ricciardone is expressing his opinion on an issue heard before. It is not undiplomatic."

Protocol

But Lozada said Ricciardone breached protocol and diplomacy by airing his criticisms to the media—in this case, the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (Focap).

"Protocol dictates that issues as sensitive as these must be discussed first with the President of the republic or the foreign affairs secretary," he said. "This is a sovereign country and foreign diplomats even from the superpower should always remember that."

Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul Gonzalez echoed this view, although he said he would first want to see the context of the envoy's statement.

"But if he really said that, I don't think he has any business attacking the government," Gonzalez said. "The government should protest that undiplomatic remark."

Ople said the President, now concurrent secretary of foreign affairs, should summon Ricciardone and ask him to explain.

He said the ambassador had exceeded the bounds of diplomatic courtesy and possibly abused Philippine hospitality—behavior that could, Ople warned, be grounds for Ricciardone's being declared *persona non grata* (unacceptable person).

Ople, chair of the Senate committee on foreign relations, said it had sent a letter to the Department of Foreign Affairs asking for the full text of the ambassador's speech before the Focap.

Lozada said that instead of helping an ally of his country, Ricciardone was "pulling us down."

He said Ricciardone's statement would be reported to the international community and subsequently put the Philippines in a bad light.

"Despite efforts by the administration to woo additional foreign investments, they might now think twice because of (his) statement," Lozada said.

RICCIARDONE: Even President Macapagal agreed with him. BULLIT MARQUEZ/AP

Probably right

Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales said Ricciardone was probably right in saying that widespread corruption in the country had discouraged foreign investors.

But she said that the ambassador was "hardly the best person to give us advice," and that he seemed to be "talking down" to the President who "has been overly hospitable to the United States."

Rosales expressed disagreement with Ricciardone's suggestion that liberalization and even amending the Constitution might be the solutions to the problem.

"We have opened up our economy compared to other countries and we have lowered our tariffs. But where are we now?" Rosales said in a phone interview.

The thing to do, she said, was to "properly sequence policies so that liberalization in certain sectors, if applicable, would be most effective."

Rosales also said the government should provide incentives to the "little investors," some of them belonging to the underground economy. She said they were the reason the Philippine economy was afloat.

Opposition Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said Ricciardone's statement acquired more significance in that it was made on the day the President assumed the position of foreign secretary in a concurrent capacity.

He said it would have been more prudent for Ricciardone to request a private official audience with the President.

"If (he) is the dean of the diplomats, he should have arranged for a participative productive meeting with the President and with the foreign sectors that he apparently is trying to represent," Biazon said.

But administration Sen. Francis Pangilinan said Ricciardone had given the government "a window to what the international community is concerned about."

"We will be living in dreamland if we continue to shun these criticisms," he said.

Sen. Manuel Villar, also of the administration coalition, said: "Instead of reacting adversely, let us take it as a challenge and wake-up call to clamp down on corruption because it has deprived Filipinos of resources to uplift their lives and tainted the country's image."

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. (Lakas) also took Ricciardone's remarks in stride, but pointed out that there was corruption in the private sector as well.

He said he would file a bill seeking the formation of an agency similar to that in Hong Kong, which prosecutes graft and corruption in the private sector.

Cha-cha

Militant groups said the ambassador's statement attributing low foreign investments to the protectionist provisions in the Constitution was a cue for the President to push "Cha-cha" moves.

It is the "green light for the politically unstable Macapagal administration to fast-track Charter change," said the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP).

Pamalakaya aired a similar view and demanded that Ricciardone leave the country.

KMP chair Rafael Mariano warned of "intensified, massive land-grabbing" in the countryside in the event that foreigners are allowed a 100-percent stake in local industries.

He expressed doubt that Ricciardone was actually concerned with the "parochial issue" of corruption.

"Recent political developments like the entry of US troops and the controversial Mutual Logistics Support Arrangement clearly show that the US is very much disturbed by the legal impediments and requirements prescribed by the Constitution," he added. ***With reports from Christine Avendaño, Rocky Nazareno and Volt Contreras***

NBI: Rod Strunk is principal suspect

WYCOCO: It took us a year to solve the case. EDWIN BACASMAS

From page A1

pected to be charged on the basis of Medel's recanted testimony, the sources said. Obstruction charges will be filed against three security guards at the Atlanta Centre Building, in San Juan town, where Blanca's bloodied body was found on the morning of Nov. 7.

"It took us about a year to finally solve the case. It's better to err on the side of caution," Wycoco said.

"I believe they are the ones who perpetrated the crime. They are the ones who actually planned and executed the murder," he said.

Blanca was killed because of a fight over money and real estate property, Wycoco added. He said the NBI had a "strong case" against the six and would present six witnesses, plus "circumstantial evidence" against the accused.

Blanca's daughter, Kaye Torres, had been planning to leave for the United States where she works as an accountant, but Wycoco said she had decided to wait for the filing of the complaint.

Medel arrested

Wycoco declined to name the suspects, but said one of the principals had an arrest warrant because of a case related to the Blanca killing.

In Cebu City yesterday, however, NBI agents arrested Medel, on the strength of a warrant issued by the Quezon City Regional Trial Court in connection with a libel complaint filed by Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina. Medel had blamed the police for allegedly torturing him into confessing to the crime.

Romulo Manapsal, NBI regional director for Central Visayas, said Medel did not resist arrest when his men went to the house he was renting in Barangay Camputhaw, Cebu City, at around 5 p.m. yesterday.

He said the suspect voluntarily went with the authorities and was even willing to be detained.

"There was no resistance on his part when my men went to Camputhaw to serve the warrant of arrest against him. In fact, he said he was on his way to Manila also but unfortunately the warrant came (first)," he said.

Medel was transported to Manila last night.

He was presented to the Cebu media wearing a white shirt with a shawl over his shoulder, and said he welcomed the arrest.

He said he would not post the recommended bail bond of P10,000 because he wanted to be detained at the NBI headquarters in Manila.

"I don't think I would post bail. I have wanted to go to Manila but I can't board the ordinary vessel. Long before, I considered myself not to extricate from the NBI unless the Nida Blanca case is solved," he said.

He said he wanted to go to Manila because he missed his granddaughter and his children.

He also said he decided to come to Cebu in May because he wanted to help his wife, who ran and won as barangay councilor of Barangay Looc, Asturias, Cebu.

He said he had long expected the libel case, because he said he had failed to submit a supplemental counter-affidavit with the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office.

The libel case, he said, was "in relation to the truth and fact that I stated about the disappearance of Michael Martinez. I made such manifestation in court about his disappearance," he said. *With a report from Jolene R. Bulambot, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Strunk piled up ₱8M in credit card bills; Nida mad

From page A1

. . . '*magpakatino na.*' She complained about money problems inflicted on her by Rod, particularly his unreasonable spending habits. My mom was troubled. Fed up, too. Her exact words were, '*Mukhang binebengga ako ni Rod.*' She believed Rod was intentionally giving her problems for some reason," Torres said.

In a Dec. 7 statement to the National Bureau of Investigation, Torres said Strunk "took advantage of the thought that my mom loved him so much and for that she had to carry the burden of keeping him at all costs."

According to Torres, Strunk "never offered to work in order to help my mom financially. In short, he was never a father to a family."

"I know of certain circumstances where my mom and Rod would argue about his extravagant lifestyle, to the point where my mom would come to me and ask help in telling Rod about the same thing. She would cry now and then to me and tell me how tired she was getting with Rod's continued lifestyle."

Marital problems

Blanca shared the same thoughts with De la Paz sometime in September, while they were on their way to a taping somewhere in Bulacan province.

"I was surprised because Dory (Blanca's nickname) brought up the topic (divorce). She was driving the car. Normally, she wouldn't discuss marital and other very personal problems with me. She said she was feeling bad because Rod had been abusing her kindness. She said it was about money and Rod's spending habits. She also confided she had given him an ultimatum. And because of her problems she said she was considering divorcing Rod," De la Paz recalled.

De la Paz made the disclosure to the INQUIRER in the presence of Torres, Torres' lawyer Harriet Demetriou and Kathryn Alba, the late actress' bookkeeper, at the late actress' residence on Nathan Street, White Plains, Quezon City.

De la Paz, however, failed to include this information in sworn statements she had earlier given to the NBI and the Philippine National Police.

Blanca also confided her problems to Razon, one of the stars who worked with her at LVN Pictures.

In a phone interview, Razon told the INQUIRER: "One time she dropped by on her way to a taping at ABS-CBN. We talked about the fun times, but we also got too personal. She was obviously troubled. She complained about Rod's spending habits. She said it was too much already. She said she had no idea where he's spending all the money."

"She told me she wanted out of their marriage. She gave me the impression her problem with Rod had broken her heart into pieces," Razon said.

Financial problems

Torres told the INQUIRER that Blanca was "right about the financial problems she referred (to) during our phone conversation last September."

"Rod left behind credit card statements which showed, among other things, that he spent at least P8 million during a three-and-a-half-year period. We discovered that last March. In one credit card statement alone there's a payment of $12,000. Yes, in US dollars and as always, it's my mom who settled the bill. He didn't only live beyond his means. The statements are a clear sign of bad spending by somebody who happened to be unemployed. I think my mom, who's a very hardworking person, had the right to complain," Torres said.

In her NBI affidavit, Torres said Blanca "secured a US divorce from my father (Victorino Torres) in 1981 so she could marry Strunk . . . After they got married in 1979, Rod moved here to the Philippines to live with my mom in our house in White Plains. He solely relied on my mom for full financial support."

THE SADDEST day for those who loved Nida best, her daughter Kaye and 88-year-old mother at the funeral rites. VAL HANDUMON

Torres described Strunk as "extremely lazy and very fond of drinking."

The former singer (he used to sing at the Concourse Lounge at the Manila Garden Hotel, now Dusit Hotel, in Makati City) was also a "nocturnal type of person, one who sleeps during the day and stays awake during the night. So while the rest of the country is at work, he is home asleep. That was his steady routine."

Torres had voluntarily given her sworn statement "in aid of the NBI's investigation of my mother's murder case."

Blanca's 88-year-old mother, Inocencia Acueza, was also present during the interview. The native of Gapan, Nueva Ecija, said in Filipino: "We sacrificed so much for 22 years." She did not elaborate.

Strunk in California

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach Strunk in his Tracy, California, home.

The 62-year-old widower left for the United States on Jan. 21 to attend to his ailing mother, Helen, who has since died.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said in late January the bureau would not ask the US government to send Strunk back to the country because no case had been filed against him.

Strunk's lawyers, who belong to the Siguion-Reyna law firm, also promised that their client would come back.

In an affidavit submitted the same month Blanca was killed, Strunk noted that he had "some misunderstanding" with his wife before she was slain. But he said it was "nothing we do not solve before the day is over."

Strunk is a former Hollywood actor (with the screen name Rod Lauren) and RCA recording artist. He met Blanca for the first time in 1964 when he was in the country filming an American movie called "Once Before I Die," directed by the late John Derek.

They got married on Jan. 6, 1979 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Blanca's bloodied body was found at about 8 a.m. on Nov. 7, in the back seat of her green Nissan Sentra sedan which was parked on the sixth floor of the Atlanta Center in San Juan, Metro Manila.

The police autopsy showed a total of 13 stab wounds—five in the left chest just below the armpit, two on the left cheek, two behind the left ear, two in the neck which hit the larynx, and two in the back just above the buttocks. Blanca also suffered hematoma (or bruise) in the right eye and two broken ribs.

Blanca was last seen alive around 5 p.m. the previous day, as she was leaving the Movies and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) office on the building's 33rd floor.

Torres has now deferred her return trip to Los Angeles, where she works as a senior accountant for a manufacturing firm, "to wait for the filing of criminal charges against my mom's killers and others responsible for her murder."

In a June 21 letter to the NBI, Demetriou called Strunk the "principal suspect" in the case.

Both Torres and Demetriou, a former presidential legal adviser and a former chair of the Commission on Elections, expressed hope that Blanca's case "would soon be solved and the culprit or culprits be brought to justice."

"We won't stop until justice is finally served. For me, it's a personal crusade for justice," Demetriou said.

The past eight months have been tough for Torres. But she said "the pain eases by remembering the good times" with her mother, whom she described as an "irreplaceable guide and mentor, and my best friend, one who was selfless and who loved me unconditionally."

Estrada's ₱50M went to 'Tabang' . . .

From page A1

Quevedo was reacting to Estrada's recent tirades against the CBCP for not giving him a full accounting of how it spent the P50 million.

Tabang co-chair, former Ambassador Howard Dee, confirmed the donation in a letter he wrote yesterday to his co-chair Fernando Zobel de Ayala.

Tabang is a non-profit task force of business, civic and Church organizations formed in 1998 to assist the victims of El Niño in Mindanao and to help the integrated return and rehabilitation of evacuees displaced by Estrada's all-out war in Mindanao to recapture territories held by the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

"I understand from Msgr.(Hernando) Coronel (CBCP rector) that you will be issuing a statement on behalf of TM (Tabang Mindanaw). Please emphasize that the P50M came from the (President's) Social Fund as an unsolicited contribution from the former President (Estrada) to aid Tabang's humanitarian work with war evacuees including provisions of food, medicines, rebuilding of their houses, rehabilitating farms, providing psycho-social services and livelihood," Dee said in his letter to Zobel.

Dee is in Canada and is due to arrive on Saturday.

"Over these years, Tabang has raised over P200M from various sources to fund its programs for the indigenous peoples of Mindanao and later, in response to the call of the Mindanao bishops, to the plight of the hundreds of thousands of evacuees resulting from the armed conflict with the MILF," a Tabang statement said.

The statement further explained that "the meeting with Archbishop Quevedo and Bishop (Romulo) Valles in Cotabato was held at the request of the President who was earnestly looking [illegible] the armed conflict [illegible] from the bishops which they gave freely and forthrightly. The donation of the President to Tabang Mindanaw's humanitarian efforts was not solicited by the bishops and they expressed great surprise at the generosity of the former President. The bishops then left the matter to the Tabang Task Force to accept the donation and use the funds properly as intended. Periodic reports have been sent to the PMS (Presidential Management Staff) who oversees the proper utilization of the donation. Ayala Foundation takes responsibility for funds management and internal audit while the Assisi Development Foundation has the responsibility for program implementation under the direction of Task Force Tabang Mindanaw."

Serious doubts

Yesterday, Quevedo said he had harbored serious doubts about the origin of Estrada's P50-million donation to Tabang Mindanaw and that he did not want to have anything to do with it.

In a statement, the Cotabato archbishop also denied asking Estrada for "financial help for evacuees."

He also cleared the CBCP from any "money transaction" in the name of the evacuees.

He said Estrada volunteered to give the money and when Quevedo expressed "discomfort" over the situation, it was peace negotiator and former Ambassador Howard Dee who took the task of receiving the donation.

Quevedo said Kidapawan Bishop Romulo Valles shared his misgivings about the nature of the check, which was released to them by Estrada in a visit to Cotabato City in 2000.

"Both of us specifically raised questions about the source of the grant. If it came from government sources, why should it not be given to government agencies?" he asked. "And if it was the former President's own money, what was its source, especially when the former President guaranteed that there would be more forthcoming?"

Echoing their misgivings, he said Dee opted to let the board of Tabang Mindanaw to "consider our (the Bishops') objections."

He later learned that the board accepted the money, but he was not sure whether Estrada gave more.

"With regard to the liquidation of the funds, I would have to leave that to Tabang Mindanaw in which I have full trust," he said.

Particular concern

Quevedo recalled that he and other Catholic Church leaders went to see Estrada to discuss the rehabilitation of evacuees displaced by the war against the MILF and the Abu Sayyaf.

Quevedo said he was particularly concerned about Estrada's plan to put up a "plantation development" in Camp Abubakar, the MILF's former stronghold that had been recaptured by government troops.

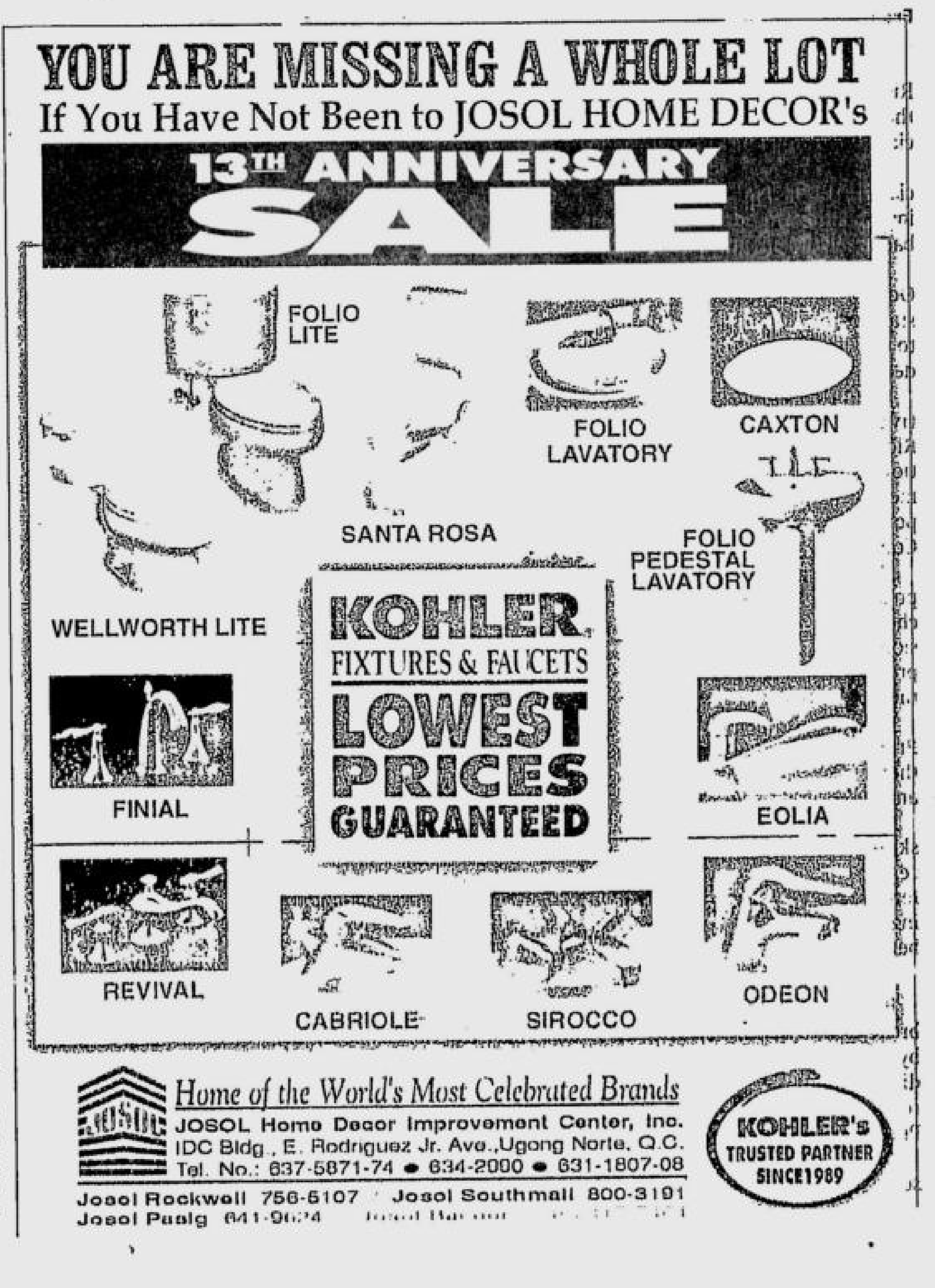
He warned the ex-President that his plan would only bolster suspicions by the Muslims that the war was waged to "satisfy business interests."

After the talk, Estrada reportedly offered to help the evacuees by issuing the P50 million, but Quevedo objected to it on the ground that Tabang Mindanaw had other ideas of helping the evacuees; that the money was too big; that it was best for Estrada to channel the money to the "usual government agencies."

But Estrada insisted on his offer to help and proceeded to write out a check.

"Realizing that I could no longer stop the former President, I let former Ambassador Dee take over from there," he said.

"When writing the check, (Estrada) asked what name should be written on the check. Ambassador Dee said, 'Tabang Mindanaw.' He gave the check to Ambassador Dee," Quevedo explained.



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SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◎ *Assistant Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

SPORTS ON TV Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

POOL: World Professional Pool Championships, Day 4, 1st Session at 10 a.m., 2nd Session at 6 p.m. on ESPN, Day 5, 1st Session at 9 p.m., 2nd Session tomorrow at 2 a.m. on Star Sports

GOLF: LPGA Shoprite Classic, First Round at 8 a.m. (r) on ESPN

PGA Greater Milwaukee Open, Third Round at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

BOLD ASIAD PREDICTION

We'll win 4-7 golds—Buhain

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE Sports Commission Chair Eric Buhain yesterday predicted that Team Philippines can win four to seven gold medals in the Busan Asian Games as he vouched for the competence of some 200 national athletes honing up their skills for the September Games.

The bold forecast, made by Buhain during the PSA Forum at the Holiday Inn, is spurred by the strong showing of athletes in billiards, boxing, bowling, golf, taekwondo, wushu, track and field and rowing during their respective qualifying events.

"Realistically, four to seven gold medals are possible," said Buhain, adding that he has full confidence the national athletes will give a performance far better than the one-gold medal achievement the RP contingent made in Bangkok in 1998.

Though Buhain noted that our athletes will go against strong opposition, he reported that the national team is training extra hard and is having high morale with the support they are getting not only from the government but also from the private sector.

"We are trying to provide them (athletes) all they need according to our capacity," said Buhain who has already greenlighted several projects for athletes including new dormitories and lounge, and instituted of a regular dialogue between athletes and sports officials.

He added the Asiad Task Force, made up of PSC and Philippine Olympic Committee representatives, is working full-time monitoring the athletes' training and supplying all their needs.

So far, the number of athletes which made the strict criteria has reached 160. Including coaches and officials, the count has reached 270 although the actual number will be determined on Aug. 30, according to the PSC chief.

Meanwhile, President Arroyo has been invited to grace the Alay sa Gintong Medalya fund-raising concert on Aug. 9 at the Philsports Arena.

Buhain and commissioners Butch Ramirez, Leon Montemayor, Mike Barredo and Cynthia Carrion are expected to personally invite the First Family to the concert which is beihg held to raise more funds for the national team's campaign in Busan.

Tickets for the concert are now selling briskly at SM Ticketnets with prices ranging from P100 to P800. Gary Valenciano and Vina Morales head the artists who will lend their talents for the sake of Philippine sports.

RP accepts hosting of 2003 4As meet

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINES has formally accepted the hosting of the 2003 Asian track and field championships after having paid the $20,000 sanction fee through the organizing Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association.

This was confirmed by Asian Amateur Athletics Association secretary general Maurice Nicholas through an overseas telephone interview yesterday with the INQUIRER.

The move also sealed the country's third staging of the prestigious event where the best athletes from more than 40 countries are seeing action.

PSC Chair Eric Buhain will receive the 4As ceremonial flag from his counterpart in Sri Lanka at the close of the 2002 Asian Championships next month.

"This is a very big event and we see it as a big boost not only to sports but also to our economy," said Buhain, who is also tapping other government agencies to help stage the championships.

"It's a done deal and there's no turning back anymore," said athletics chief Go Teng Kok who recently turned down a last-minute plea by Japan to take over the hosting from the Philippines.

"It's a matter of national pride. The PSC has already made its commitment to help stage it and the 80 million Filipino people are already expecting to watch it," added Go.

Buhain and Go joined hands raising the money which was immediately sent to the 4As offices through Nicholas.

San Andres shoots for 'moto' top spot

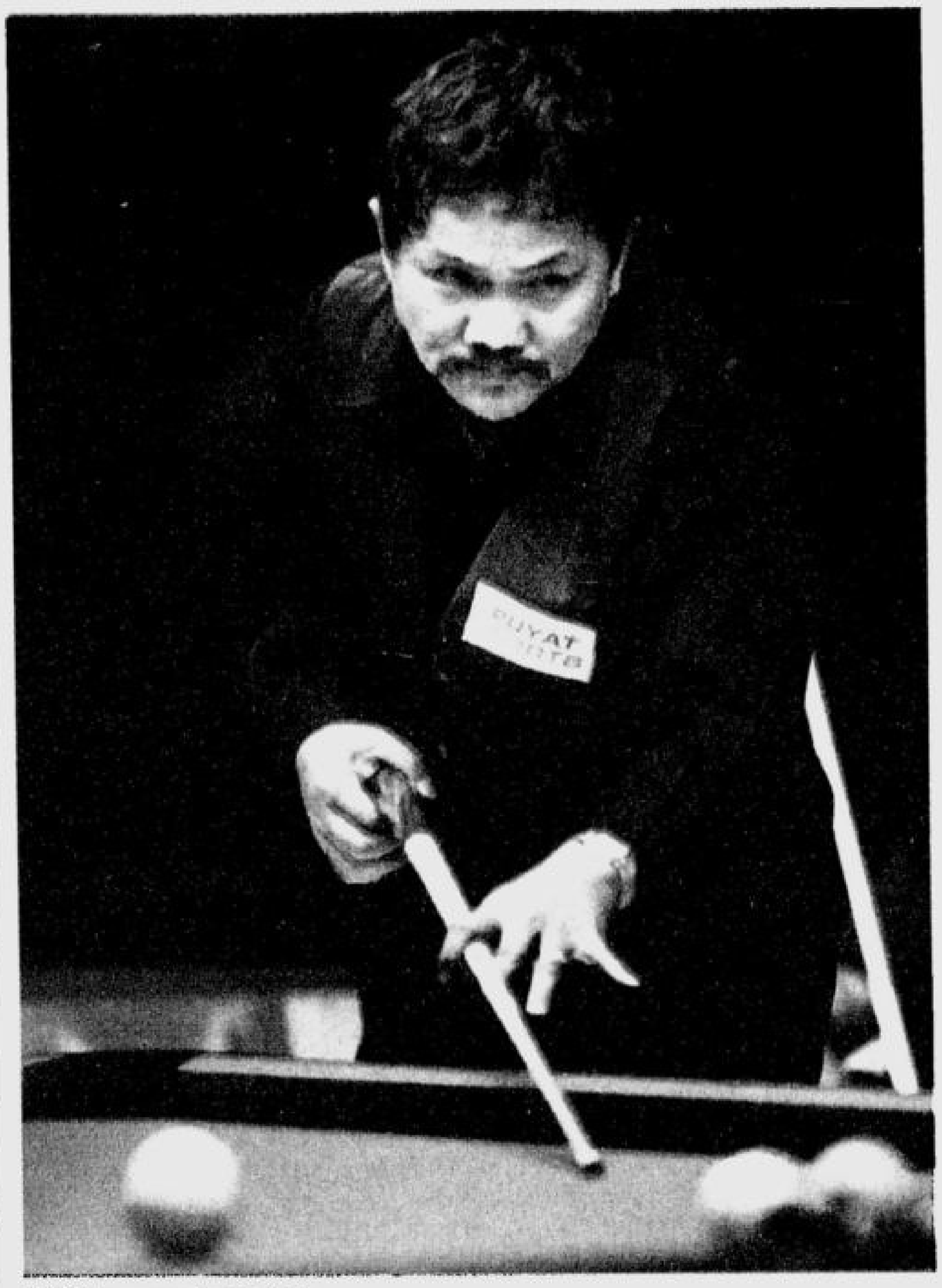
CALTEX Revtex-KTM wonder boy Kenneth San Andres guns for the lead in the Mini-Class Division of the Superferry National Motocross Super Series 2002 on July 20-21 at the Perdices Coliseum (Capitol Area) in Dumaguete City.

San Andres, the six-time Yound Rider of the Year, is running third in the Mini-Class category but an expected victory will catapult him to his familiar spot as leader.

He lost in the second and third legs due to an injury that had his right arm in cast but came back with a bang in the Puerto Princesa, Palawan fourth stage to close in on his older rivals Juvinile and Joshua Abellar, who have 127 and 124 points, respectively.

The 13-year-old rider from Valenzuela has a total of 105 points, but a victory that is worth 40 points, will give him back the top spot.

"We're very hopeful that Kenneth can regain the lead he lost when he was nursing an injury," said Caltex-Revtex-KTM team manager Ner Marquez Dormiendo. "Our confidence level in Kenneth is very high, especially after that masterful ride in Palawan."



REYES prepares for his shot.

Corteza, Reyes lead Pinoys' charge in World Pool tilt

CARDIFF, Wales—It was Lee Van Corteza's turn to shine Monday night as he joined favored compatriot Efren "Bata" Reyes in the last 64 of the 2002 World Pool Championship at the Cardiff International Arena here.

The 23-year-old Corteza, three-time Southeast Asian Games gold medalist, posted a 5-1 victory over Paul Hunter while Reyes split his third round matches as they climbed to a 5-win, 1-loss record and 10 points in Group 13 and Group 5, respectively.

Reyes, the 1999 champion of the event, bowed to Siaw Weto, 2-5, but bounced back with a 5-1 conquest of Pat Holtz.

Other Filipinos with good chances of advancing to the knockout stages were Warren Kiamco, Django Bustamante, Antonio Lining and Canada-based Alex Pagulayan. They caught up with Ramil Gallego at 4-1 and eight points.

Kiamco routed Raf Souquet, 5-0, in Group 4; Bustamante beat Nick Van Den Berg, 5-3, in Group 7; Lining trounced Roman Hybler, 5-2, in Group 8; and Pagulayan bested Jorge Llanos, 5-3, in Group 14, of the 128-man field from 42 countries.

The advance of Gallego, a Bristol qualifier, was stalled when he lost to defending champion Mika Immonen, 3-5,in Group 1.

There's a big chance that all the nine Filipinos would qualify as Dennis Orcullo, Rodolfo Luat and Leonardo Andam were within striking distance at 3-2 and six points.

Orcullo ousted Jung-Hua Chao, 5-4, in Group 10 while Andam dumped Mark Williams, 5-3, in Group 12. Luat yielded to Johl Younger, 5-4, also in Group 12.

Also making it to the last 64 with 10 points each were Johnny Archer and Kun-Fang Lee, Niekls Feijen (Group 9), 1995 titlist Oliver Ortmann (Group 11) and Takeshi Okamura in Group 16.

Notables who failed to qualify include George Sarmas of Greece, Gilliano Smit (Holland), Ryan Rampersaud (Aruba), Carmine Nanula (Italy), Gino Vermeesch (Belgium), Javier Palacios (Panama), Marrio Morra (Canada) and Llanos (Argentina). *Roy Luarca*

Beermen rip Kings

GAME THURSDAY (Caruncho Gym, Pasig City)
7 p.m.—Shell vs Selecta RP

By June Navarro

SAN Miguel Beer sustained a fiery start to repulse sister squad Barangay Ginebra, 93-82, last night in the PBA Samsung Commissioners Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Putting behind the memory of a tumultuous encounter against Batang Red Bell last week, the Beermen vented their ire on the Kings, dominating the game from start to finish.

The Beermen drew fines as much as P140,000 after a bench-clearing incident during a 78-73 setback against the Thunder but it didn't dampen their spirits in picking up their third win in six games. The Kings dropped to 2-5.

Art Long, who instigated a fistfight with Tony Lang that led to a near brawl, unleashed his tantrums again after an unfavorable call in the fourth. Good thing the rest of the Beermen quickly restrained the 6-foot-9 former Seattle Supersonic from getting things out of hand on the floor.

"In fairness to Art (Long), he possesses that competitive spirit, prompting him to pour his frustrations on the floor. But honestly, the guy is good," said San Miguel Beer interim coach Siot Tanquincen.

Scores:

SAN MIGUEL 93—Seals 20, Long 17, Belasco 17, Peña 5, Victoria 11, Lago 9, Castro 3, Mente 1, Gamboa 0, Gahol 0.

GINEBRA—Davis 24, Caguioa 17, Basco 11, Spencer 11, David 8, Naron 7, Malabanan 2, Ong 2, Wallkvist 0, Tolomia 0.

Quarters: 24-21; 47-40; 72-56; 93-82.

MBA selection downs Russians

TAIPEI—The Metropolitan Basketball Association selection needed just one scoring spurt in the fourth quarter to topple Russia's towering Lokomotive Novosibrisk, 78-68, Monday night at the start of its campaign in the 25th Jones Cup at the Taipei Physical Education College Gym here.

Ahead by just one point, the Filipinos dropped a 26-17 bomb courtesy of Reynel Hugnatan and Peter Simon to pull away from the Russians, who averaged 6-foot-7 in height.

The 6-foot-4 Hugnatan, a stalwart of RCPI Negros, defied taller defenders to finish with 17 points on six-of-10 shooting from the field. Professional Davao's Simon, the 2001 MBA discovery of the year, contributed 14 points.

It was sweet revenge for the Filipinos, particularly Jeffrey Flowers, as the same Russian squad beat the FedEx Laguna Lakers, 81-71, for third place last year.

China's SINA Lions and Australia's Great Mates Team are pacing the eight-team field with two straight wins after three playing days.

The Filipinos were playing the Canadians at presstime. They tackle the slumping Taiwanese (0-2) at 5:30 p.m. today. *Roy Luarca*

'NC' games today

GAMES TODAY (Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
11:30 a.m.—Letran vs UPHR (jrs/srs)
4 p.m.—CSB vs Mapua (srs/jrs)

POSTPONED thrice due to bad weather and unsafe playing conditions, the 78th NCAA basketball tournament resumes today with four title-hungry squads mixing it up at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The College of St. Benilde Blazers, crowned champions during the 2000 season, clash with the Mapua Cardinals after rookie-laden Letran College and University of Perpetual Help-Rizal face each other starting at 2 p.m. Both matches will be aired live on Studio 23. *June Navarro*

Marcial, Catalan capture taekwondo titles

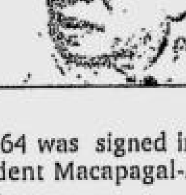
A FIL-AMERICAN college student and a member of the national training pool kicked their way to victories to become the first female gold medalists yesterday in the Samsung Best of the Best national taekwondo championships at the Glorietta Activity Center.

Rachel Marcial, a 20-year-old sophomore at the US College Air Force in California, and Team Philippines' Sugar Catalan turned in impressive performances to capture the finweight and flyweight titles, respectively.

Marcial, who has won a gold medal in the recent US military games, overwhelmed Beverly Jill Malaay of Far Eastern University, 7-0, while Catalan demolished WNCAA gold winner Azalea Nucup, 4-1, to take the spotlight in the event organized by IMG and the Philippine Taekwondo Association.

In the men's category, four national pool members also advanced in their respective class weights in the tourney sponsored by Samsung and supported by Accel and 103.5 K Lite. *Marc Reyes*

Congress urged to amend sports law



CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

MORE than 100 employees of the Manila Water Co. are asking Congress which resumes on July 22 to amend Republic Act 9064 and include medal winners in non-Olympic sports such as bowling, billiards, golf and chess as beneficiaries of the landmark law.

In a petition to the House of Representatives and the Senate, the sportsminded employees said that excluding world champions in non-Olympic events from the monetary rewards granted under the law is a deplorable omission and a grave injustice that need rectification because the affected athletes have also brought tremendous honors and prestige to our country with their exploits in international competitions." RA 9064 was signed into law by President Macapagal-Arroyo last year.

Also called the Sports Benefits and Incentives Act of 2001, the law grants cash rewards and other perks to Filipino athletes who win medals in quadrennial events like the Olympics and Asian Games but unfairly excludes similarly outstanding performers in bowling, billiards, golf and chess, which are all non-Olympic and annual events. If amended, it will benefit non-Olympic standouts like four-time World Bowling Cup champion Paeng Nepomuceno, billiards legend Efren "Bata" Reyes, golfer Dorothy Delasin and Asia's first chess grandmaster Eugene Torre.

During a House hearing which I attended, Nepomuceno said: "It is unfortunate that bowling is not an Olympic sport. And yet, I treasure my World Cup achievements perhaps in the same way Tiger Woods would appreciate his numerous titles in golf, which is another non-Olympic sport. I have served the country for over three decades and I did not receive nor seek even one centavo assistance from the government for any of my world competitions. It suffices that I proudly carry the flag and bring honors to the country and the Filipino people. That is my reward."

While on the subject of sporting heroes, may I also appeal to Congress, notably Senators Robert Jaworski, Vicente Sotto III and Manuel Villar and Speaker Jose de Venecia and Congressmen Monico Puentevella and Jaime Lopez, to file a similar bill which will grant lifetime benefits to world boxing champions of legitimate professional boxing organizations such as the WBA, WBC and IBF, say, starting in 1960, because these pro boxers also bring respect and recognition to the Philippines with their sterling accomplishments. That would be their just rewards when their glory days are over.

TAEKWONDO GUESTS
Korean Ambassador Son Sang Ha (left) is greeted by Philippine Sports Commission Chair Eric Buhain when he guested at the opening of the Samsung Best of the Best national taekwondo championships Monday at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati City. Also shown (from left) are POC president Celso L. Dayrit, POC chair and taekwondo president Robert N. Aventajado and Samsung vice president Maeng Dal Bae.

HOT PICK AP

Defending champion and top favorite Lance Armstrong pedals to the finish line in the 9th stage (individual time trial) of the Tour de France on Monday. Armstrong placed second to Colombia's Santiago Botero and remained in strong contention for the overall crown.

RP jungolfers kick off bid in World tilt today

By Jong Arcano

SAN DIEGO, California—Twenty-four jungolfers will try to break the Philippines' three-year victory drought in the Junior World golf championships when they plunge into action in five different age-groups here starting Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila).

While Jayvie Agojo remains the contingent's best hope based on credentials, the kids in the lower divisions are expected to carry the fight for the Philippines which has not won since Dorothy Delasin bagged the 15-17 years class in 1998.

Agojo tied for third in the 13-14 years last year and as she moves up in the 15-17 years, the OB Montessori junior will have her hands full challenging the more mature entries hoping to play well enough for a ticket to a college golf scholarship here. Focus will be on the Class E bets of the delegation sponsored by Philippine Airlines, Adidas Taylor Made and Pisanti-Dottie Ardina, Miguel Tabuena Jr., Gonzales and Cristina Potenciano—who have shown much promise both in the summer circuit and their early practice rounds.

Merwin Mediana, president of the Jungolf Foundation of the Philippines, said that Mia Piccio might also come up with a big surprise.

"Mia has prepared well for his debut in Junior World and she has been playing consistently well at Lawrence Welk. She has definitely someone to watch out for," said Mediana.

The other Filipino players are Keenan Ugarte, Bayani Garcia, Raymund Espiritu, Marlo Lamela, Matet Salivio in Class A, Lawrence Negrido, Miko Alejandro, Justin Tambunting, Gerleen Handog and Linel de Villa in Class B, Miko Yee, Mikee Camitoc, Allan Guy and Mabel Salivio in Class C, Jobim Carlos, RG Medestomas and Maria Tala Exconde in Class D. Espiritu and Lamela are Fil-Am players asked to fill in the slots vacated by sudden withdrawals including GT Laguatan whose visa wasn't released on time for him to make it here this week. There are at least six other entries with Filipino parentage living in the US who are in the field.

Pasay derby set tomorrow

PASAY City Cockpit's much-awaited 15th Anniversary 5-Cock Derby blasts off tomorrow (July 18) featuring the elimination round with about 150 participants seeing action.

Sponsors are Casino Filipino-Parañaque, Sagupaan High-Action ready mix maintenance feeds and Sagupaan Hammer.

Official entries must be submitted today, Wednesday, July 17, from 12 noon-8 p.m., according to PCC pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano.

"For the first timers, I would remind them that PCC's anniversary derby always starts at 9 a.m. sharp, since we have to finish more than 150 fights. Please come on time," Dela Rosa said.

Interested parties may contact 816-6750, 843-1890 and 843-1746.

Ateneo, WSMU top Streetball

ATENEO de Davao University streetball teams and Western State Mindanao University crushed their respective rivals to rule the adidas Streetball Challenge 2002 Mindanao eliminations recently in Davao City.

The one-two scoring punch of Alexander Lu and Harry Hipolito clicked from start to finish for Ateneo de Davao as they trounced Ateneo de Zamboanga, 13-10, to top the Seniors division. Providing backup to Lu and Hipolito were Allan Medina and Chester Chavez.

In the Distaff final, captain Maureen Gallego lifted Western State Mindanao University past University of Mindanao, 11-10.

Miguel Paulo Lim led a balanced Ateneo de Davao attack as he and teammates Aaron Medina, Dexter Ansaldo and Gian Carlo Fernan edged Holy Child School of Davao, 15-14, to grab the Juniors crown.

Felix Pepito, Cylron Lozano, Jed Obena and Adrian Garson played team basketball to perfection, giving Ateneo de Davao a convincing 14-7 win over Ateneo de Zamboanga in the Midgets final.

The Mindanao winners snare automatic slots in the much-awaited adidas Streetball Challenge 2002 National Finals slated on Aug. 17-18 in Cebu City.

The national champions will represent the country to the adidas Asian Streetball Finals 2002 to be held on Aug. 29-Sept. 1 in Shanghai, China.

The adidas Streetball Challenge 2002 is sponsored by Growee and WGA Zip in cooperation with Gatorade, Absolute Pure Distilled Drinking Water, Zed, Taylormade Golf, Salomon, Magic 89.9 dwTM and 99.5 RT. It will have its final leg of eliminations in Cebu City on Aug. 3 and 4.

Kobe, adidas part ways

LOS ANGELES—Kobe Bryant and adidas decided on Monday not to exercise a two-year extension to their sponsorship deal, leaving the Los Angeles Lakers guard without a shoe endorsement.

Bryant will wear various brands of sneakers during games next season while he evaluates future opportunities. **AP**

SPORTSWATCH

Germans seek revenge

GERMANY aims to avenge a heartbreaking loss to Brazil recently when battle in the 10th World Women's Volleyball Grand Prix shifts to the Araneta Coliseum this Friday (July 19). The German spikers, preparing for the World Championships next month which they will be hosting, lost to their Brazilian counterparts in five sets after coming back from two sets down (19-25, 22-25, 25-19, 25-19, 8-15) at the start of the World Grand Prix in Tokyo this past weekend. It turned to be the Germans' only loss in three games as they were able to bounce back with straight-set wins over Japan (25-20, 25-19, 25-21) and Thailand (25-17, 25-21, 25-15). Germany will first tangle with China leg topnotcher Russia this Friday before it eyes revenge against B[illegible] on Saturday. It then winds on Sunday.

Stains in Allen's car

PHILADELPHIA—Stains found in Allen [illegible]son's car, initially believed by investigators to be smeared blood, turned out not to be bloodstains, a police official said Monday. Detectives found broken glass in the Cadillac Escalade frequently driven by Iverson's wife, but a police official speaking on condition of anonymity said investigators later determined the stains were some other substance and were not related to the smashed glass. "His kids ride in the car. We think that the stains probably came from the kids," the official said. "It's definitely not blood." He declined to say how the determination was made. Police searched Iverson's suburban Philadelphia home and seized the car Thursday, looking for evidence to back charges that he forced his way into a cousin's apartment with a gun July 3 while looking for his wife. **AP**

NBA fires female ref

NEW YORK—Dee Kantner, one of the NBA's two female referees, has been fired, the NBA said. "Dee has been terminated," NBA vice president of basketball operations Stu Jackson said Monday. "There are times in a referee's development that we find that a referee is not making sufficient progress in her own development and sometimes a change is needed. In this case, we felt that her termination was warranted." Kantner and Violet Palmer joined the NBA's officiating staff in 1997. It was the first time in major U.S. professional sports that women officiated regular-season games in an all-male league. **AP**

Tiger meets his match

GULLANE, Scotland–Tiger Woods already met his match at the British Open which starts Thursday. After finishing a practice round Monday morning before the wind began to whip off the Firth of Forth, Woods headed directly to the driving range when he ran into a security guard who didn't recognize him and didn't see his credentials. She threw her arms out and blocked him from going any farther until a member of Woods' entourage intervened. If only the rest of the field at Muirfield could stop him so easily. Woods has breezed to victory in the first two major championships of the year, winning the Masters by three strokes when no one mounted a charge, and winning the U.S. Open by the same margin despite closing with a 2-over-par 72.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1991, Catherine Ocampo notched 34.987 points to rule the women's division of the National Artistic Gymnastics ranking meet at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex. Also today in 1991, Rogelio Antonio Jr. tallied 6 points with a tiebreak of 34 points to win the second leg of the 1991 Philippine Sports Commission-Philippine Chess Development Foundation active chess tournament at the Metropolitan Chess Club.

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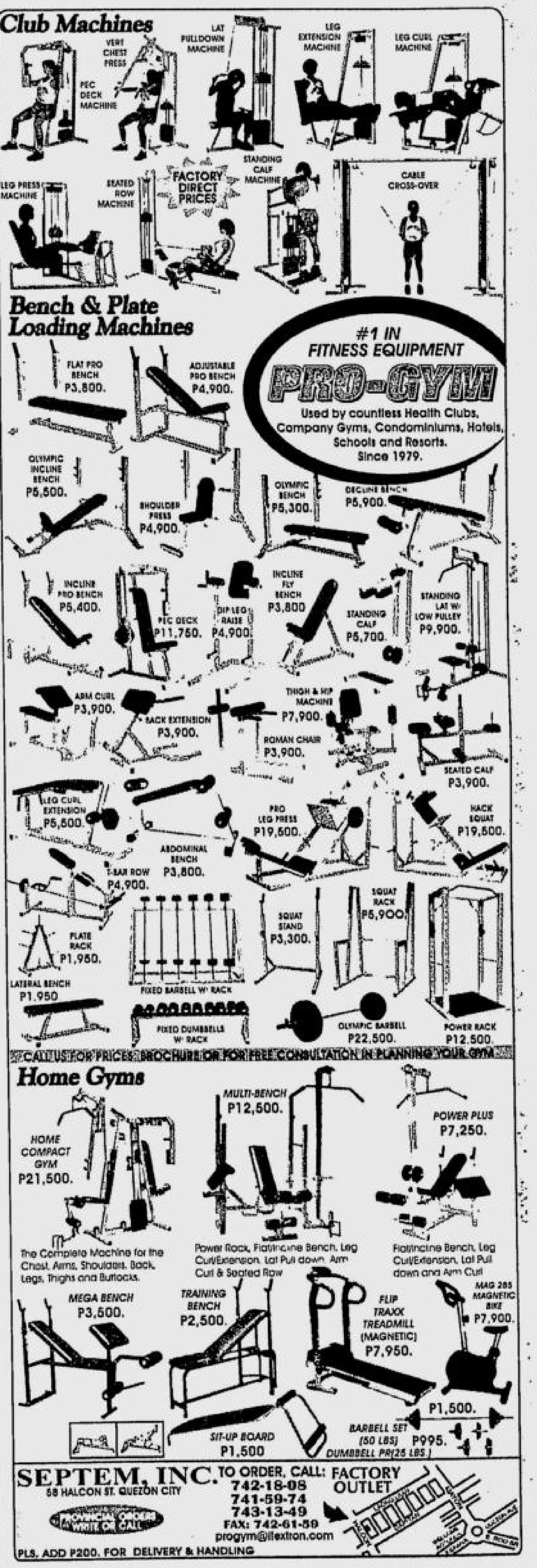
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Kidnap case against NBI man builds up /A24
Bare Eye: In memory of Caloy Sanchez, photographer /A24

METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

DILG issues ruling on Manila council's 'continuing recess' /A24

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

SORE LOSERS
Last Monday's barangay polls left sore losers, who end up beating their opponents who beat them in the polls. Policemen lead this woman to safety after she was caught in poll brawl in Quiapo, Manila.

SLEX tolls go sky high

By Christian V. Esguerra

A NEW round of toll increases at the PNCC-run South Luzon Expressway started yesterday amidst strong opposition from motorists.

The increases pegged rates at the elevated section from Buendia to Bicutan from P65 to P75 for Class 1 vehicles, which include cars, jeepneys, pick-ups, and vans.

Rates at the at-grade portion from Magallanes to Bicutan were jacked up by P5, from P15 to P20.

At the at-grade section from Bicutan to Sucat and from Sucat to Alabang, the rate increased by P2, from P9 to P11.

The "Skyway" rate for Class 2 vehicles such as light trucks and tourist buses is now P150, and P225 for trailer trucks classified under Class 3. But if it is any consolation to motorists, the PNCC Skyway Corp. said it was willing to renegotiate its contract with the government to ease the burden of toll increases on the public.

"If we would have our way, we wouldn't want to pass the burden on motorists," said Ramon Borromeo, spokesperson of the Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp. (CMMTC) which built the Skyway in 1995.

"But our existing contract with the government prescribes that we collect from the public to pay the loan spent for building the skyway."

Borromeo suggested that the government subsidize the payment of Skyway loans by allocating a substantial portion in its annual budget.

"Actually, our main concern is to pay our loans," he said referring to the US$414 million debt which the CMMTC incurred when it built the Skyway system. "But we would be happy

SLEX TOLLS/ A24

Teachers face raps for polls boycott

By Armand Nocum
and Christian V. Esguerra

PUBLIC SCHOOL teachers who walked out from polling precincts in Parañaque on Monday face prison terms of up to six years and expulsion from government service if they are found guilty of violating provisions of the Omnibus Election Code, according to Commission on Elections Commissioner Resurreccion Bora.

Bora said yesterday that three Comelec lawyers are now studying the case and that the poll body is looking at filing both administrative and criminal charges against the teachers.

The teachers were assigned as Board of Election Tellers (BETs), but boycotted the elections in protest of the Comelec's instructions that teachers assigned to District 1

TEACHERS FACE / A24

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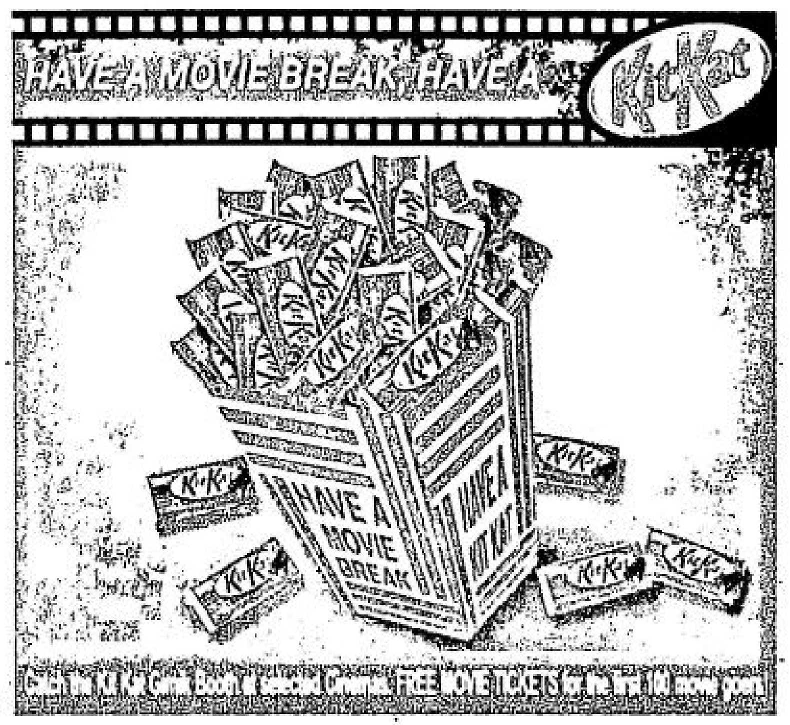

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In memory of Caloy Sanchez, photographer

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

HE HAD reportedly recovered from his recurring lung ailment, left the PGH, and returned to his favorite nook. So the first time I got a chance, I drove down UN Ave. Monday afternoon to look for my old friend, the dedicated and often sleepless photographer Caloy Sanchez. No luck. Caloy, thin as a kite and with eyes of live coal, was nowhere near the sidestreet shack across the WPD Headquarters which he had foolishly called home.

When I returned home, I was told that our city editor, Gerry Lirio, had called to break the sad news. Caloy had died last Saturday.

I tried hard to know where he was lying in state. But it was only yesterday that I got the complete details. There will be no wake for my friend.

I was told he has got no coffin. I offered to buy one, but was told Caloy's body, which has been deposited for safekeeping in a funeral parlor in Paco, will be cremated Thursday morning. An evening Mass will follow at the Pope Pius Center on UN Ave. that same day.

Most of you don't know Caloy Sanchez.

There will be many conflicting details about this man, who could often be mistaken for a hippie with his strange, colorful get-up.

Caloy himself did not know this, but he was one of my original idols.

He was one of a kind, a rare and very reliable co-worker.

Anyway, I have decided to take a pause, in deference to my friend.

I'm instead reprinting this little item, kept by Gerry Lirio, which I had done seven years ago, when Caloy and I used to share a bottle of the old Marka Demonyo, whenever we could in dim, nameless corners of the city he had covered so well:

* * *

YOU know how it is to survive a day on a thin packet of Skyflakes biscuits? Of course you don't. But if you care to know, go and ask Caloy Sanchez. He sure knows how. The guy is a battle-scarred veteran of Hunger Street. If there's no money for food, Sanchez stammers, then you'd be lucky to survive on Skyflakes. (Madalas wala pong pera, kaya po 'yun na lang.) This was before he started contributing crime photos to the Inquirer. While he gets paid at least P200 a picture today, the most one paper would pay him before he decided to give photos to the Inquirer was P40 per piece. And he says he would be lucky to gross P800 a month.

* * *

Rocky Nazareno, high-noon crime scribe of the Inquirer, swears he has seen Caloy do the Skyflakes bit. This was on a long, tiring trip to Pangasinan. Caloy, Rocky says, would finish a piece of biscuit, enough for one meal, then deposit the rest inside his shirt pocket. Not only that. Caloy doesn't partake of the feast regularly offered during press conferences. It's hard to say. Maybe it's part of the discipline the cruel streets had rammed into the guy's throat. Streetwise, Caloy knows that if you overfeed yourself today, you start longing for more food the next day. And where the hell would you get all the food you'd be hungering for next? "Ayaw talagang magka-kain," Rocky observes.

* * *

Caloy, 37, as we all know, was accused by an overfed bank executive of taking part in a bank robbery last Friday. Sanchez was next manhandled and detained by a brute of a police officer. Subsequent inquiries bared Sanchez was innocent. Analysts have wracked their brains on how and why Caloy had been dragged into the mess. Some claimed it could be his outfit. Or his hungry, absent stare. The thing to ask of course was: Is the guy intrinsically good or bad? Is a sinner or saint? The best this deadline-beater could do was call up the family of a cop who, upon the instance of Justice Corazon Agrava, had adopted Caloy Sanchez, a former street kid. "We're a hundred per cent behind him," pleads the mother of the cop. "He definitely is not capable of that (participating in a robbery)." She adds that Caloy, poor and miserable (he can neither read nor write) is a personification of innocence.

* * *

Funny. But once thrown into the spotlight, Caloy gets a cruel grilling, asked all sorts of questions. His educational attainment? Poor Caloy doesn't even know what it—educational attainment—means. Yes, he admits, he started taking pictures all out of pure accident, when he chanced upon a holdup some years back. But Caloy Sanchez is one accident Philippine journalism badly needs. He can't read. But he can read the world in pictures, and very honestly, too. At least the guy knows when he's being made a stooge by men in classy suits. Hungry as he is, Caloy can't stomach hypocrites. Of course, he's happy enough he was not asked about inflation and its effect on his stomach. All the guy needs is a piece of biscuit.

Wycoco pins down NBI man in Ong kidnap

By Philip C. Tubeza

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco said Alex T. Advento, the NBI agent accused as one of those who abducted food heiress Charmaine Ong in Valenzuela, did not report to the bureau headquarters at the time of kidnapping.

"He did not report here," Wycoco told reporters yesterday. "He was neither here nor there (at the NBI headquarters or its Nueva Vizcaya office)."

Advento, who was assigned to the Nueva Vizcaya office, said in his statement that he was at the NBI headquarters to work out his papers when Ong was kidnapped.

Advento is one of the suspects charged before the Department of Justice.

The national police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group also filed charges against Elmer T. Calixto, Norman Tulabat, Felizardo Pagulalan, a certain Charlie, and five John Does.

Calixto, who has apparently turned state witness, implicated Advento in Ong's kidnapping.

The heiress was kidnapped last month and held captive in a house on California Street, Villasol Subdivision, Barangay Anonas, Angeles City, Pampanga.

She said she allegedly escaped with the help of one of her abductors.

Advento was linked to the kidnapping when his NBI identification card was found in one of the cars used by the kidnappers.

"(Advento) was assigned to Nueva Vizcaya and he reported for a few days there," Wycoco said. "But then he said he had to go back here in Manila to take care of his papers."

"It was during that intervening period that the kidnapping happened," he added.

Advento's ID card was found in a red Nissan Sentra (TPE-218) which Ong's kidnappers abandoned on Narra Street, Clarkview subdivision, Barangay Malabanlas, Angeles City.

Advento's ID card was issued in 1996 during the time of NBI Director Mariano Mison.

The NBI has charged Advento administratively for losing his bureau identification card and not reporting it to his superiors.

Advento's uncle, Ricardo Perez, told investigators that his nephew left the ID in the car when Perez took him to work sometime ago.

The car allegedly belonged to Perez's late wife. Advento does not own a car.

But Wycoco said the Sentra had a "shady past" and that it was a stolen vehicle.

He said he has ordered Advento to stay at the NBI headquarters "for his own safety."

"Maybe the kidnappers might want to silence him," Wycoco said.

He also urged the DOJ to hasten its preliminary investigation.

"We've requested the prosecution to hurry up the preliminary investigation so that the case can be acted upon expeditiously," Wycoco said.

Once the DOJ panel decides that there is prima facie evidence against the suspects, the case would be filed in court and arrest warrants would be issued.

Kidnapping-for-ransom is a non-bailable offense.

Poll losers lash back at winner in Quiapo

A DAY after the barangay elections, supporters of a losing candidate in Quiapo, Manila, beat up a supporter of the candidate who won.

Salipada Momoro, 42, of Globo de Oro, Quiapo complained to policemen of the Sta. Cruz station that around 10 men beat him up yesterday morning.

Momoro identified three of the men as Amur and Michael Bulangi, and Hadji Akmad Sulaiman.

Police said the incident happened at around 8:30 a.m. yesterday while the victim was walking on Globo De Oro street.

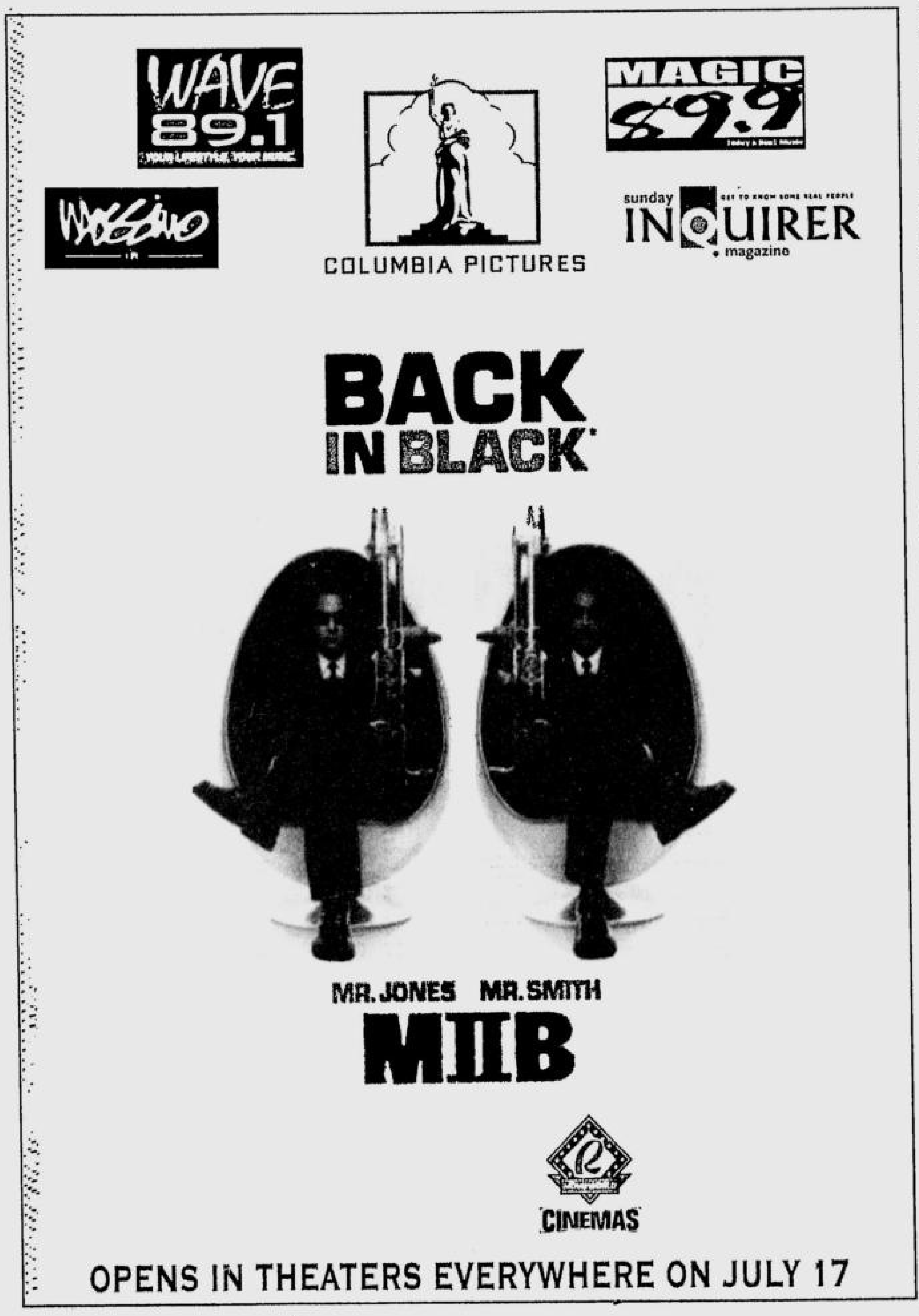
Momoro said he was allegedly dragged at knifepoint and taken to a vacant lot where the suspects beat him up and left him for dead.

The suspects then padlocked the lot's gate before they left him, police said.

When the lawmen arrived at the vacant lot, they saw the victim lying on the pavement.

They then took Momoro to a nearby hospital.

Philip Tubeza



Teachers face ...

From page A23

switch places with teachers assigned to District 2.

Borra said the actions of the teachers had the effect of "defrauding the will of the people (and depriving them of) their right to vote."

Lawyer Calixto Ramos, Parañaque's election officer, said the teachers' boycott delayed elections in at least 20 percent of the precincts in the city even as he bared that a local politician had handpicked the teachers.

"What they did was unconstitutional, very unprofessional," he told the INQUIRER.

The controversy started when Ramos sent a memorandum to Benjamin Abalos Sr. on Friday asking the Commission on Elections chair's permission to transfer teachers to other precincts.

"Please be informed that my finding is that the previous list of teachers was allegedly shown to a high official of this city (who) handpicked the teachers to sit in the BET to insure the chance of his candidates," he said in the memorandum.

Abalos approved the request paving the way for the transfer of 1,186 teachers from the city's District 1 to District 2 and vice versa, he added.

As early as May, Ramos said he had been asking Dr. Rolando Magno, Parañaque's schools division superintendent, to submit the list of teachers who would compose the BET. He said the law requires that the list be submitted a week before the elections.

Having made many excuses, Magno finally promised to give the list last July 10, Ramos said. But the school official submitted the list only on July 11, a day after he allegedly met with the city's school board, he said. Ramos added that Ramos only modified the list "to follow the orders of someone."

Elections that were postponed in some areas in Metro Manila will be held on Saturday, according Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos.

"We have to hold the elections by Saturday because the students have no classes and we can utilize their schools as precincts," Abalos said in a news briefing. "By Sunday, they can clean the schools."

The poll body earlier postponed elections in 15 barangays in Valenzuela City, 12 barangays in Navotas, 7; 4 in Las Piñas, 4; and 3 in Quezon City, 3.

SLEX tolls ...

From page A23

if the fund would come from other sources, not from the public."

Muntinlupa Rep. Ruffy Biazon said he would personally bring up the issue of the toll increase with President Macapagal-Arroyo at yesterday's meeting of the Regional Development Council and the Regional Peace and Order Council at the Manila Hotel.

"The increases should be put on hold until all petitions and cases regarding the matter have been resolved," he told the INQUIRER.

The new toll rates were supposed to take effect last July 1, but Ms Arroyo had asked CMMTC officials to suspend the collection of higher fees until the public has been properly informed of the increase.

DILG issues ruling on Manila council's 'continuing recess'

By Jerome Aning

THE DEPARTMENT of the Interior and Local Governments today is set to rule on the legality of the Manila City Council's "continuing recess" that began last month.

Acting vice mayor Isko Moreno, who petitioned the DILG regarding the 20-day break declared by the majority aldermen, said local governments Secretary Jose Lina will render a decision on the controversy.

In a phone interview, Moreno scored the majority councilors for not following the City Charter, which specifically provides that the Council has to hold two sessions a week.

As acting vice mayor, the first district councilor tried to convene council sessions. His third attempt yesterday also failed, with only one councilor showing up.

Moreno was forced to adjourn the session for lack of quorum.

The actor-turned-politician rejected comments by some City Hall insiders that "the majority (in the Council) always rules, even if it is wrong."

"The majority can only prevail as long as it follows the law and conducts itself righteously," Moreno told the INQUIRER.

Political observers said the real reason why the majority declared a recess was that Moreno is the one going to preside.

But Moreno said, "the issue here is not who is the presiding officer, but who is the person authorized to call the session, and that is none other than the vice mayor, whose office I had temporarily assumed."

On June 28, Moreno assumed the post of Vice Mayor Danilo Lacuna who took a three-week official leave that ends on July 24.

Moreno quit the majority two months ago after a disagreement with his former partymates. Since then, he has frequently questioned and commented on council proceedings, annoying some majority councilors.

In a council session on June 27, the majority did not adjourn, but instead voted to go on "continuing recess," a prolonged break that would last until July 18.

Moreno wrote the councilors ordering them to attend a session on July 4.

But majority floor leader Councilor Marlon Lacson scoffed at the order and refused to recognize Moreno as acting presiding officer.

He said he and 28 majority councilors will not attend any session called by Moreno.

Lacson explained that the Council's president pro tempore, Councilor Alejandro "Kim" Atienza, should be the acting presiding officer in accordance with the body's internal rules.

He stressed the resolution to call a period of recess was decided upon by the Council as a body.

"Such decision, to my mind, cannot be overturned by a decision of one person acting alone (who assumed) functions not duly conferred upon (him)," Lacson said, referring to Moreno.

But Moreno said the internal rule quoted by Lacson refers only to the "absence" of the vice mayor, or when the vice mayor acts as mayor.

"In fine, to insist on a stringent and pedantic construction and application (of the rule) would promote delay, create a hiatus and foment chaos and confusion in the affairs of the city," he argued in his letter to the DILG.

The 38-seat Council is dominated by the Liberal Party, to which 29 councilors and Mayor Lito Atienza belong.

Concepcion, 79

ENGINEER Emiliano Concepcion, 79, died on July 15.

He is survived by his wife Cecilia Concepcion and children Rody and Celes, Sandra and Joel Senoran, Eddie and Joy, Rio and Andy Denoga and Ma. Victoria.

His body lies in state at the Capitol Memorial Chapel on Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

"Mang Naning," as he was known in technical production circles, was a press production manager and had been connected with various publications, including the Evening News, the Journal Group of Publications, the Oriental Media Corp. and Focus magazine.

Grandchildren, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul. Interment will be announced later.

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2 THE THIRD WHEEL	3 MEN IN BLACK 2 11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30	2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	2 MEN IN BLACK 2 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, 11:20	2 MEN IN BLACK 2
3 KAPALIT	4 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . . 5 POWER PUFF GIRLS	3 MEN IN BLACK 2	3 AMELIE 1:00, 3:35, 6:10, 8:45, 11:20 4 MINORITY REPORT 11:20, 2:20, 5:20, 8:20, 11:20	3 THE THIRD WHEEL 4 POWER PUFF GIRLS
4 HIGH CRIMES	6 MEN IN BLACK 2 7 THE THIRD WHEEL	PAROKYA NI EDGAR @ ONSTAGE JULY 19 (FRI.) - 9 PM	5 THIRD WHEEL 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15	5 HIGH CRIMES

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6 GOLD (SDDS) THIRD WHEEL
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3

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10 SLACKERS

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10 SUM OF ALL FEARS
11 HIYAS SA PARAISO
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12 SLACKERS

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7 MINORITY REPORT
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8 MEN IN BLACK II
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10 POWER PUFF GIRLS

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3 SLACKERS
4 KAPALIT
5 FOREVERMORE
6 RESIDENT EVIL
7 MINORITY REPORT
8 MEN IN BLACK II

SM CITY ILOILO
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1 TAMPISAW
2 CLOSED
3 BAD COMPANY
4 MEN IN BLACK II
5 SLACKERS
6 MEN IN BLACK II
7 CLOSED
8 RESIDENT EVIL

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1 MEN IN BLACK II
2 MEN IN BLACK II
3 POWER PUFF GIRLS
4 FOREVERMORE
5 SLACKERS
6 KAPALIT

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2 MEN IN BLACK II
3 MEN IN BLACK II
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2 KAPALIT
3 FOREVERMORE
4 HIGH CRIMES

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2 A WALK TO REMEMBER
3 AMELIE
4 RESIDENT EVIL
5 MEN IN BLACK II
6 MEN IN BLACK II

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Globetrotting on the Discovery Channel

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE Discovery Channel sates armchair travelers' hunger for freewheeling global travel—free of charge! Take a look at the cable channel's program schedule just for one day, today, July 17:

At 1 a.m., "Globe Trekker" takes you to the Rockies. At 4 p.m., celebrate with the revelers at the Bio-Bumba de Parintins festival in Brazil. At 5 p.m., "Mystic Lands" focuses on the magnificent Taj Mahal *and* Peru, the vaunted Kingdom in the Clouds.

At 7 a.m., get your feel of the "World's Sexiest Destinations for Couples!" At 11 a.m., "Great Palaces of the World" takes you on a tour of the Grand Palace in Bangkok. At 11:30, "Great Castles of Europe" lays out the red carpet at Forchtenstein.

Early-afternoon programs variously focus on cultural tours of Israel, Spain, Tunisia, Morocco, Russia, Shanghai and Varanasi. At night, the tours continue through Bolivia, Mexico, Barcelona and Scotland.

The world's the armchair tourist's oyster on Discovery!

Other Discovery Channel advisories:

•On Sunday, July 21 at 7 p.m., "Travel & Adventure Presents" premieres "Bigfootville." The docu takes viewers to small towns in Oklahoma, USA, where new sightings of "the missing link in the evolutionary chain" have been reported.

People claimed that the mysterious hairy creatures have been banging on metal barns, scaring dogs and mutilating cattle. Four eyewitnesses talk about up-close encounters with the beasts. Take everything with a pound of salt, of course.

On July 21, for instance, **Christina Chang** starts her journey in the wine region of Bordeaux, France, where she gets a unique beauty treatment, vinotherapy or wine therapy. Next, she visits the ancient cave paintings at Grotte du Perche Merie, then goes on a canoe trip down the Dordogne River, stopping off at a beautiful old castle on the way.

After a tasty meal, she heads south to Bayonne for some Basque culture, taking a lesson in Pelote Basque, one of the fastest games in the world. From there she visits Lourdes, one of the major Catholic pilgrimage sites in the world—and the Roquefort region, where she learns about that strong smelly cheese!

Continuing east, she visits the ancient town of Arles, whose most famous resident was **Vincent Van Gogh**. Christina takes in some more wine at a wine festival before heading to Marseilles for Bastille Day.

She then gets a lesson in perfume making in the town of Grasse, before hitting the beaches of the Riviera. She takes a quick glitzy trip to Monaco before ending her trip in Cannes, famous for its beaches and film festival.

'Timeless'

DON'T forget to watch **Barbra Streisand**'s farewell concert, "Timeless," today (July 17) at 8 p.m. on Star World. The singing superstar said her musical goodbyes at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas. Stars like **Celine Dion**, **Bryan Adams**, **Neil Diamond** and **Shirley MacLaine** were in the audience, applauding madly like everybody else.

Even departed legends like **Judy Garland** and **Frank Sinatra** managed to take bows with the diva via tape and film clips. (Replays are on July 18 at 2:30 a.m. at 11 a.m., and on July 21 at 11 a.m.)

Quiz show errors

THANKS to **Loi Landicho** of Rizal Village, Makati for this compilation of quiz-show errors:

Quizmaster: *Anong* "M" *ang tawag sa* painting *sa* wall?

Contestant: Wall painting!

(No, mural.)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Ano ang* NBA team *ng* New York?

Contestant: Lakers!

(No, Knicks!)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Sa* dictionary, *aling* word *ang nauuna* chloroform *o* cholorphyll?

(Reversed dictionary? No, it's chlorophyll.)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Ang* bagpipe *ay isang uri ng* musical instrument—*Tama o Mali*?

Contestant: *Mali*!

(No, *tama*!)

Movies on Cinemax

FRIDAY, July 19 at 8 a.m., "Young Sherlock Holmes." At 4:15 p.m., "Biloxi Blues." At 3:15 a.m., "Scrooged." Saturday, July 20 at 9 p.m., "Sleepy Hollow." At 2:15 a.m., "Taxi Driver." Sunday, July 21 at 9 p.m., "Gossip." At 1:30 p.m., "She's No Angel."

Feedback

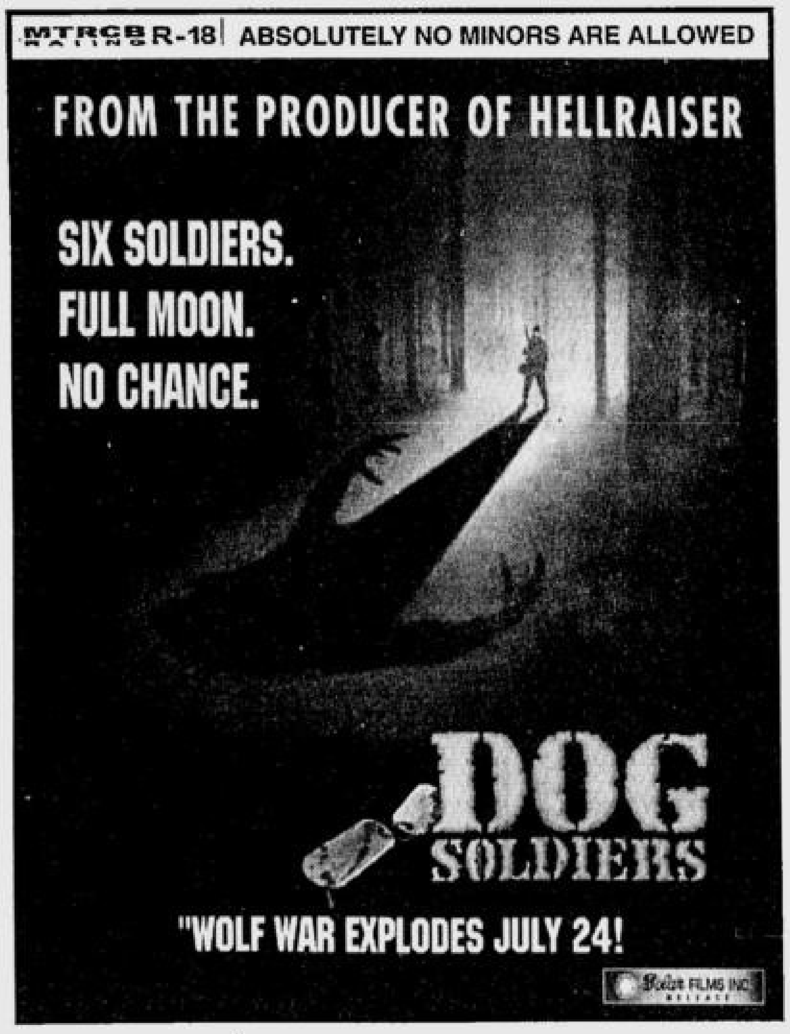
FROM **Meriam Tolosa** of San Antonio Village, Makati: "I'm an avid reader of your column and I'm thankful that you feature a variety of TV reviews. I would like to congratulate ABS-CBN for coming up with a new telenovela, 'Kay Tagal Kitang Hinintay.'

"It is quite impressive in terms of casting and craftsmanship. The story is fast-paced and the acting superb. I'm very happy we will be seeing once again the likes of **Lorna Tolentino** and **Snooky Serna**, two former child stars who have metamorphosed into fine, credible actresses.

"With regards to Snooky's performance in the first few days of the new TV series, I couldn't help but cry in empathy with the character she portrays. She's simply the best! I hope we will see her more on TV. How about her own drama series?"

SIDE A AT SUBURBIA

This month, Suburbia Malate offers more reasons to enjoy weekdays and weekends with the hottest bands in the local entertainment scene. Start Monday nights with Side A, the pop quintet of Joey Generoso, Naldy Gonzales, Ernie Severino, Kelly Badon and Joey Benin. Tuesdays are equally exciting with the cool and hip sound of 7th Soul. Shake off mid-week blues with South Border and Play Back, performing a slew of hits on Wednesdays. Toy Symphony's brand of R&B music dominates the venue on Thursdays. For reservations, call Suburbia Malate at 450-1685 or 86.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VIVA
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Kuh bares two album projects for the year

POP diva Kuh Ledesma will come out with potential trend-setting albums this year.

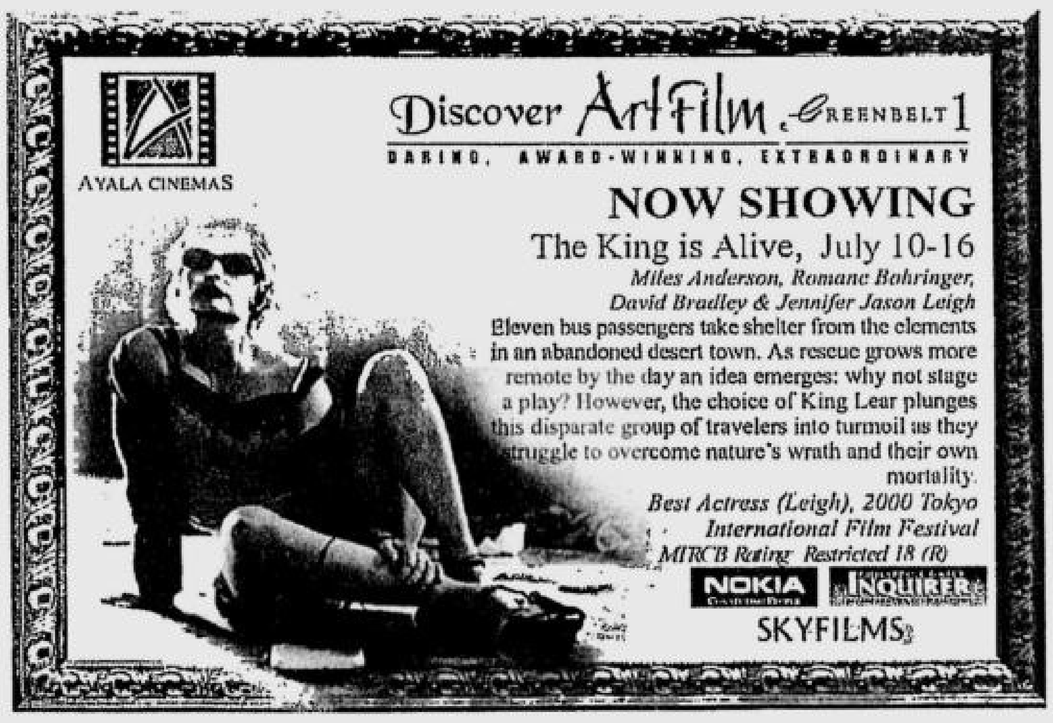
The first is "Walking on Water," due to be released next month.

Inspired by the story in the Bible where Jesus bids Peter to come to Him by walking on the water, Kuh's new album is a collection of inspirational songs with a distinct R&B flavor.

Among the songs included in "Walking on Water" is a remake of "Dust in the Wind" rearranged by Bob Aves, the contemporary Christian classic "You Are Worthy of My Praise," "From the Start" (penned by Cecil Azarcon) and the title cut "Walking on Water," written by Azarcon and arranged by Moses Edralin.

Kuh's second album is "Diva to Diva," another album of duets featuring Kuh with her favorite divas. The list of singers to record with Kuh, however, has not been disclosed.

LEDESMA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Miles Anderson, Romane Bohringer, David Bradley & Jennifer Jason Leigh
Eleven bus passengers take shelter from the elements in an abandoned desert town. As rescue grows more remote by the day an idea emerges: why not stage a play? However, the choice of King Lear plunges this disparate group of travelers into turmoil as they struggle to overcome nature's wrath and their own mortality.
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'Larger Than Laff' at Music Museum

LAZARO

PHILLIP Lazaro topbills "Larger Than Laff," a comedy revue that goes onstage tomorrow night at Music Museum.

The stellar lineup of special guests include Lani Misalucha, Judy Ann Santos, Ai-Ai de las Alas and Allan K.

Phillip will pit his comic talent against his guests in sketches written and directed by Andrew de Real.

For the first time in her career, Lani will also try her hand at comedy, when she stars in the skit, "How To Be the Back-up Singer of a Diva," with Phillip.

"Larger Than Laff" is mounted by Behind the Scene Productions with Bayantel and PCSO.

Tickets at P900, P600 and P300 are available at the Music Museum box office and Ticket World branches at all National Bookstore outlets and Robinson's Department Stores.

For inquiries, call The Library at 522-2484 or 536-5431.

Punchline launches search for comedians

PUNCHLINE opens its doors to talents who have the ability to make people laugh, with its search for stand-up comedians, "Make Me Laugh."

If you think you have the flair for making people laugh, you can sing and you have the guts to be onstage, audition at Punchline, daily from 1 to 5 p.m.

With your material and audition tape, display your skills and talents before Mark and Dandy.

The "Make Me Laugh" search will commence on the first Tuesday of August until December 2002. Weekly winners will receive P2,000 in cash, plus consumable gift certificates.

Winners of the monthly finals will compete in the grand search in December. Grand prize winner will receive P30,000 cash, plus regular slot at Punchline and its sister establishment Laffline.

Second prize winner will receive P20,000 in cash and third prize winner will bring home P10,000.

Punchline is located at 1399 Quezon Ave. (beside Aberdeen Court), Quezon City. Call 373-3541 or 411-0662.

Kris, Pops . . .

From page A27

on Sundays with Boy Abunda.

Pops, meanwhile, is as excited as her two friends about the new, daily morning show.

"This is interesting for the three of us so I said yes to it right away," Pops said. "Maybe we'll have musical portions once in a while for our guests. But you'll see all three of us on TV daily. There are different portions for each of us."

On Sundays, Pops and Zsa Zsa also host the musical-variety program, "Asap."

Getting Kris, Pops and Zsa Zsa to host daily morning show is a project of ABS-CBN president Freddie M. Garcia, who may have been inspired when she saw the three women gel on the small screen so well when they appeared in an episode of "Talk TV" last month.

Little did Kris, Pops and Zsa Zsa know that that guest stint would lead to a major move for all of them.

Although they alll have busy schedules, the three are real-life friends, making it easier for the network bosses to put them together in a daily morning program

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Kris, Pops, Zsa Zsa in new morning show

By Leah Salterio

LATE this month, Kris Aquino will be seen on TV twice daily, on the early evening game show "Game Ka Na Ba?" and on a new morning show.

Kris returns to the morning time slot when she hosts a new program with Pops Fernandez and Zsa Zsa Padilla, who are her closest friends in show biz. Kris dominated the late-morning slot for nearly five years with the talk show "Today With Kris Aquino."

The title of her new show, however, has not been finalized yet, but Kris said the show will definitely air within the month.

The new program will replace "Talk TV," the daily morning show hosted by Julius Babao, Christine Bersola and Ryan Agoncillo, which airs at 10:30 a.m., Mondays to Fridays.

Kris said the new show will have a talk-musical-lifestyle format. But she assures viewers she is not out to out-talk her two co-hosts, which she can easily do hands down.

"I can do the talking, but of course, I'll leave the musical part to them (Pops and Zsa Zsa)," she said.

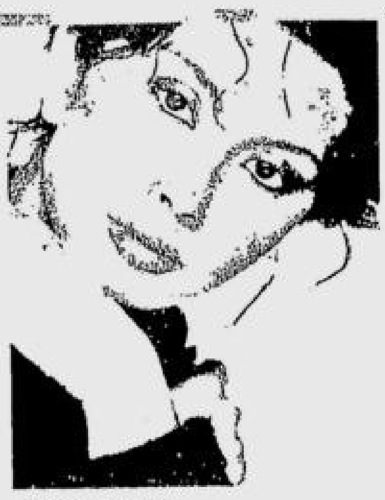
"Working with Pipay and ZsaZsing is a dream come true for me," she added. "Working with them will be both fun and challenging."

Even if it means a busier calendar for her, Kris is hardly complaining about having a new morning program.

"It's better for me to work everyday so I'll stay out of trouble," she said. "Less free time means less controversy."

Apart from her two daily programs, Kris is also hosting the show biz show, "The Buzz,"

KRIS/ A26



FERNANDEZ

AQUINO

PADILLA

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	FOREVERMORE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	KAPALIT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	MEN IN BLACK II
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	HIGH CRIMES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	MEN IN BLACK II
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	THE THIRD WHEEL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	MINORITY REPORT
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	KAPALIT
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	MEN IN BLACK II
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	BUKANG BIBIG / BUSINESS WITH PLEASURE
ODEON	MEN IN BLACK II
ODEON-2	COLLATERAL DAMAGE / BATAS NG LANSANGAN
ROBEN	KAPALIT
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	HART'S WAR / SCORPION KING
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	KAPALIT
REMAR	KAPALIT
REMAR-2	SUGAT
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	KAPALIT
B	
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	POWER PUFF GIRLS
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	FOREVERMORE
CINEMA-2	KAPALIT
CINEMA-3	HIYAS SA PARAISO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BAD COMPANY
CINEMA-6	ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
CINEMA-7	SUGAT
CINEMA-8	MINORITY REPORT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	HIGH CRIMES
CINEMA-12	POWER PUFF GIRLS
CINEMA-14	THIRD WHEEL
CINEMA-15	KAPALIT
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	THIRD WHEEL
CINEMA-2	BIG FAT LIAR
CINEMA-3	MEN IN BLACK 2
CINEMA-4	HIGH CRIMES
CINEMA-5	POWER PUFF GIRLS
CINEMA-6	MEN IN BLACK 2
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

THIRD WHEEL - P 13 11:50, 1:50, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 9:50	BIG FAT LIAR - P 13 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	MEN IN BLACK II - P 13 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
HIGH CRIMES - P13 12:30, 2:55, 5:20, 7:45, 10:10	POWER PUFF GIRLS - P 13 12:20, 2:10, 4:00, 5:50, 7:40, 9:30	MENI IN BLACK - P 13 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:20

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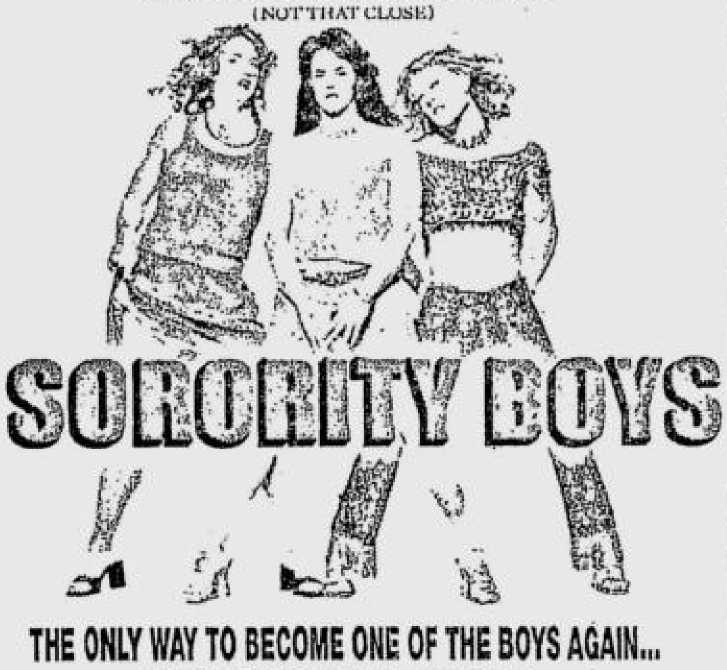

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BUBBLES
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VICTOR NERI
JAY MANALO
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kasama si
BOOTS ANSON ROA
ipinakikilala
MICHELLE QUIZON
Kapalit?
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DIREKSYON MEL CHIONGLO, DGPI

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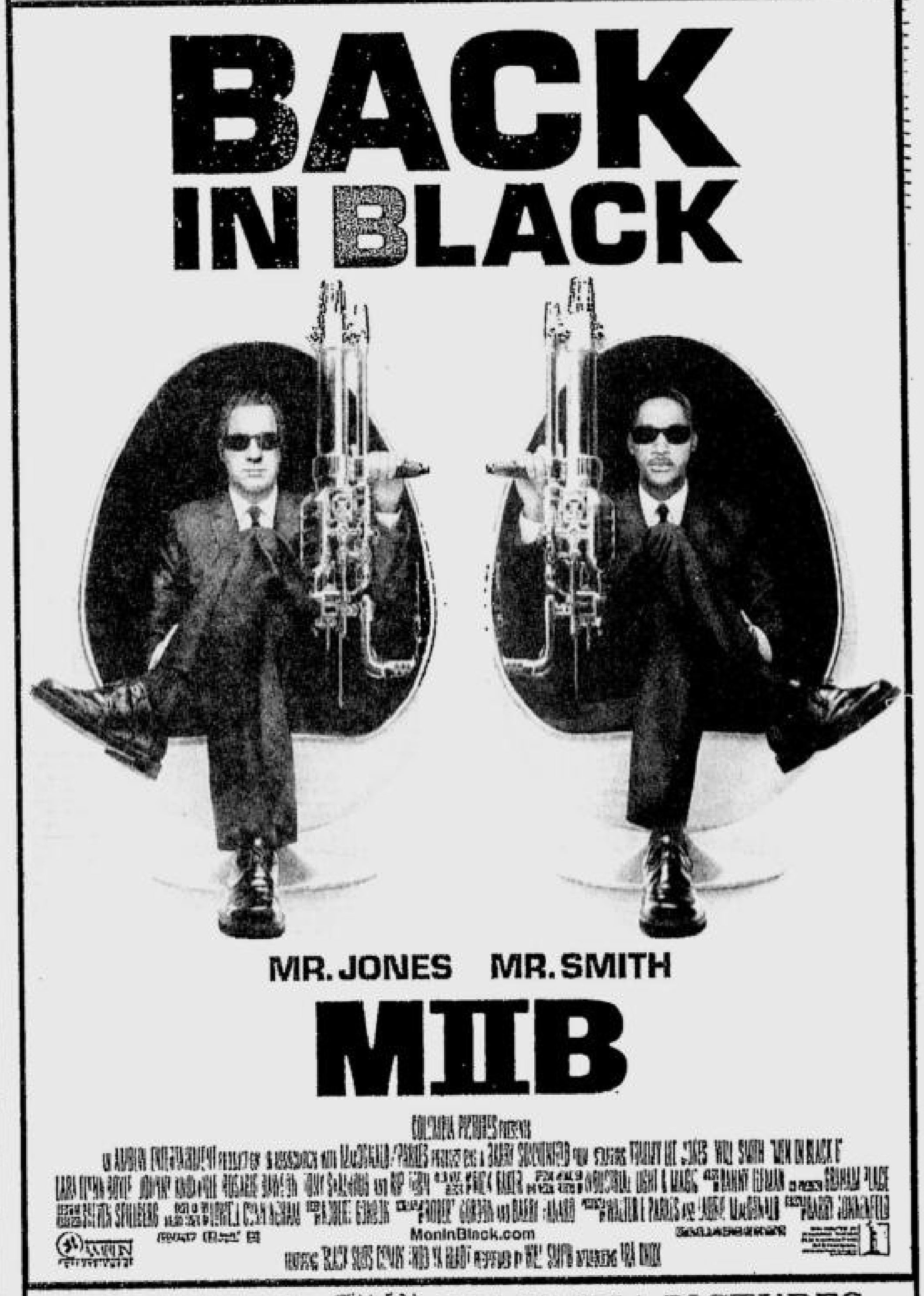

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THE SMART Cinema Club

Simply Out Of This World

MIIB

MEN IN BLACK II

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MIBMIB
MIBMENINBLACK1
MIBARMCANNON

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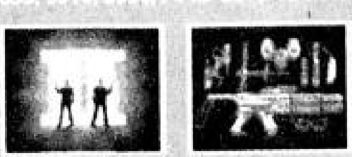

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*You can also access the MIB2 games via WAP. Visit the SMART WAP homepage at http://www.smart.com.ph/wap, click on the "Men In Black 2" link, choose "Men In Black games" and select "Back in Black" or "Field Agent Training".

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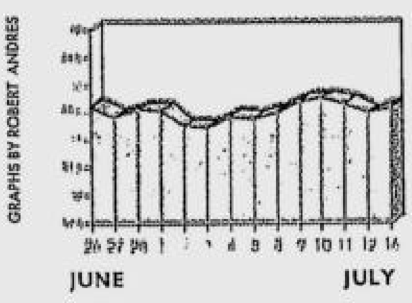

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₱ 50.40 = $1

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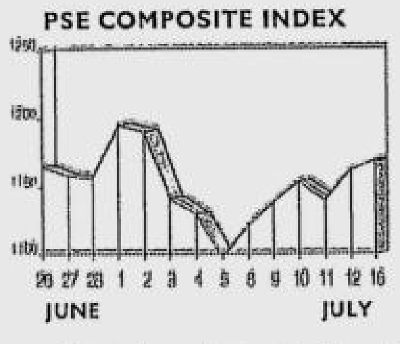
As of 5 p.m., July 16, 2002

GOLD: $318.50/319

per ounce Hong Kong,
July 16, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Shares end mixed



(See stock market report on Page B4)

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange share index closed slightly higher in a mixed trading session yesterday as bargain hunters continued to accumulate oversold blue chips, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index was up 7.04 points, or 0.6 percent, at 1,168.73, adding to Friday's 2-percent gain. Financial markets were closed Monday for a public holiday.

Decliners led gainers 28 to 23, while 29 issues were unchanged on persistent political and economic concerns both domestically and overseas.

Blue-chip Bank of the Philippine Islands was among the most actively traded stocks, rising P3, or 6.4 percent, at P50 on foreign buying, inspired by the bank's stable fundamentals and earnings growth prospects.

The continued demand for select blue chips didn't come as a surprise given the oversold condition of the market, said Astro del Castillo, director for the Association of Securities Analysts of the Philippines.

"But the value turnover remains thin, which indicates the index uptick may not be sustained given the current mood of the market, which is weighed down by worries over the government's widening budget deficit, political wrangling, and the corporate accounting fraud cases in the US," he said.

The debt woes hounding some listed corporations have also weighed on the market, he said.

AP

WHAT'S INSIDE

Napocor to privatize Makati property /B2
SMC keen on Indofood /B2
Cocktales /B3

Investment slowdown worries businessmen

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

BUSINESSMEN belonging to the country's top 1,000 corporations remained upbeat on the country's economic growth this year but were cautious of its prospects in the next few years in view of ebbing investments and rising unemployment.

A semestral survey by the Makati Business Club showed that majority of the businessmen or 53.1 percent polled expected high economic growth this year while only 7 percent expected the economy to stumble.

The MBC survey was conducted from June 24 to July 12 with 145 respondents representing 18.1 percent of group members.

MBC executive director Guillermo Luz said the optimism on the country's short-term prospects arose from the growth in export and import performance; the government's success in taming interest rates, inflation and the foreign exchange rate; the neutralization of the Abu Sayyaf threat; and joint military exercises between the Philippines and the United States.

But Luz said the survey results also showed underlying concerns by businessmen for the medium-term that only surfaced over the last six months. "The weak outlook for the medium-term, specifically the downtrend in investments, indicate to us some potential problem for (the country) in the future," Luz said.

The recent survey showed a reversal in the businessmen's outlook on investments in the country. In January 2002, majority of businessmen projected higher investments this year. In the recent survey, roughly 50 percent expected investments to fall below their year-ago level.

Luz said this was reflected in the drop in the Department of Trade and Industry's rating from No. 5 to No. 6 among the 33 government agencies. It was the only agency which dropped from the top 5 with the Department of Health taking its place.

Luz said the DTI was the primary investment agency for attracting investments and businessmen held them accountable for declining investment flows.

On the corporate front, Luz said the percentage of businessmen expanding their operations had gone down to 37.2 percent from 44.8 percent in January with the average investment shrinking from P524 million to P440 million.

The survey results also showed a creeping pessimism among businessmen as most of the respondents were either maintaining or scaling down their workforce. "The results suggest that more businessmen are keen on resizing their operations, which should see more lay-off in the coming months," Luz said.

The businessmen also cited five key concerns that they wanted Malacañang to resolve within the year: peace and order, politicking, graft and corruption, unemployment, and power rates. Luz said businessmen gave the President a passing mark on her compliance in four areas: enhancing the business climate, modernizing agriculture, social bias toward disadvantaged, and raising moral standards of government and society.

The President made these commitments during last year's State of the Nation Address.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Percent (%) of respondents	January 2002 *1/07/02-1/18/02*	July 2002 *6/24/02-7/12/02*
GDP GROWTH		
Higher than 2001	**44.8**	**53.1**
Same as 2001	32.3	38.6
Lower than 2001	20.8	6.9
INFLATION RATE		
Higher than 2001	12.5	11.0
Same as 2001	45.8	40.7
Lower than 2001	**27.1**	**44.1**
91-DAY T-BILL RATE (average)		
Higher than 2001	12.5	11.0
Same as 2001	38.5	29.0
Lower than 2001	**46.9**	**57.2**
P/$ RATE (year-end)		
Same as end-2001 rate	24.0	37.2
Appreciating	**11.5**	**51.0**
Rate of Appreciation	*1.0*	*3.0*
Depreciating	61.5	10.3
Rate of Depreciation	*5.9*	*4.3*
INVESTMENT		
Higher than 2001	45.8	22.8
Same as 2001	26.0	28.3
Lower than 2001	**27.1**	**46.9**
EXPORTS		
Higher than 2001	**41.7**	**52.4**
Same as 2001	36.5	22.8
Lower than 2001	20.8	22.1
IMPORTS		
Higher than 2001	**43.8**	**53.1**
Same as 2001	39.6	26.2
Lower than 2001	15.6	17.9

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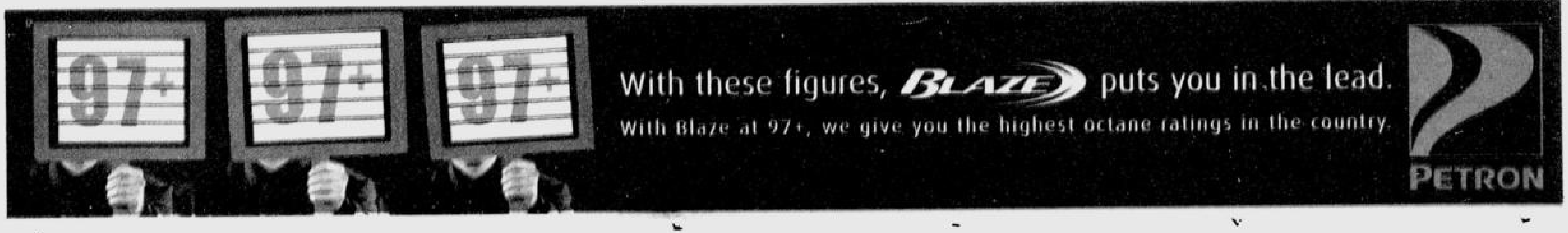

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PETRON

Napocor to privatize prime Makati property

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE STATE-OWNED National Power Corp. yesterday said it would not renew the lease contract for parcels of prime land in Makati, including the Mile Long property, which it said would be privatized along with its generation and transmission assets.

Napocor general counsel Ranier Butalid said in an interview that the move was in accordance with the Electric Power Industry Reform Act, which mandates that all of the power firm's disposable assets, including real estate, should be privatized.

Butalid said Napocor owned parcels of land in Makati totaling 27,874 square meters being leased at P1 per square meter a year.

He explained that the lots were part of 12.5 hectares of government land leased since 1978 to the Technology Resource Center Foundation, formed and headed by then first lady Imelda Marcos.

The contract with TRCF, now named Philippine Development Alternatives Foundation, will expire on Dec. 31, 2002.

Butalid said the Napocor board's decision dated May 29, 2002 was prompted by a letter from sub-lessee Sunvar Realty Development Corp. seeking a renewal at a proposed rate of P1.25 per square meter a year.

Reacting to Napocor's decision, Sunvar said it was "saddened by the decision...not to renew the contract" it entered into with the government.

Sunvar president Charlie Rufino expressed concern about the "adverse effects of te nonrenewal of the lease to the sub-lessees who have been using the leased premises for business purposes for a long time already."

"An abrupt termination of the lease agreement would give rise to irreparable financial damage to the sub-lessees," Rufino said.

Butalid said Napocor had asked for authority from Malacañang to represent the government in the non-renewal of the lease for the entire 12.5 hectares.

In a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo dated June 4, Napocor officer in charge/president Roland Quilala said the proposed new rate was "grossly prejudicial to the interest of the government and patently disproportionate to the value of the property."

Quilala said that as of 1997, the appraised value of the parcels of land stood at P125,000 per square meter.

Butalid said Napocor was keen on the privatization of the land but said it was pushing for a joint and coordinated action with the national government to "maximize the value of the lots."

"There are various options on how to privatize this and we are open to all of them," he said. "This includes the option for the lessees to buy the property."

SMC confirms interest in buying Indofood stake

FOOD and beverage conglomerate San Miguel Corp. told the local stock exchange yesterday that it would be interested in acquiring a stake in Jakarta-based PT Indofood Sukses Makmur, the world's largest noodle maker, if one were ever offered.

This followed an INQUIRER report on Monday that the Salim family of Indonesia planned talks with Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) chair Antonio Cojuangco on the possible sale of First Pacific Co. Ltd.'s 48-percent stake in Indofood.

"PT Indofoods, if offered for sale by the Salim family, would be a good acquisition for the core food business of the company," San Miguel Corp. said in the disclosure.

First Pacific, which is controlled by the Salim family and holds the single largest stake in PLDT, is seeking to sell its holding in the telecom firm to the Gokongwei family.

The move, however, is being opposed by key PLDT management including president and chief executive Manuel Pangilinan, who is also executive chair of First Pacific.

The support of Cojuangco, who is a cousin of Eduardo Cojuangco, the current chair of San Miguel, is seen as crucial to the success of the planned deal with the Gokongweis, the report said.

It added the Salims were hoping that by encouraging Antonio Cojuangco to broker an Indofood sale he could be persuaded to support the deal with the Gokongweis.

In its disclosure, San Miguel said it had good, direct business relations with the Salims and would not need a broker if the Indofood stake was put up for sale.

At its annual stockholders' meeting last month, Eduardo Cojuangco and another company official said the firm was eyeing a major aequisition in its core food and beverage business but was not close to any deal. *Reuters*

PSE suspends trading of 3 firms for failure to submit reports

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange yesterday suspended the trading of three publicly listed companies for failing to meet the deadline for the submission of the reportorial requirements imposed by the exchange.

These companies were Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp., Philippine National Construction Corp. and Wise Holdings Inc.

Two other companies avoided the same fate with last-minute compliance yesterday—Music Corp. and Fil-Estate Corp. There were originally seven companies facing suspension but two others, DMCI Holdings Inc. and Wellex Industries Inc., complied with the requirements last week.

The PSE said in a memorandum to brokers that the shares of Atlas, PNCC and Wise Holdings would remain suspended until compliance has been made.

The PSE requires all listed companies to submit financial reports, including 200 copies of their an-

PSE/ B5

PERLA INSURANCE

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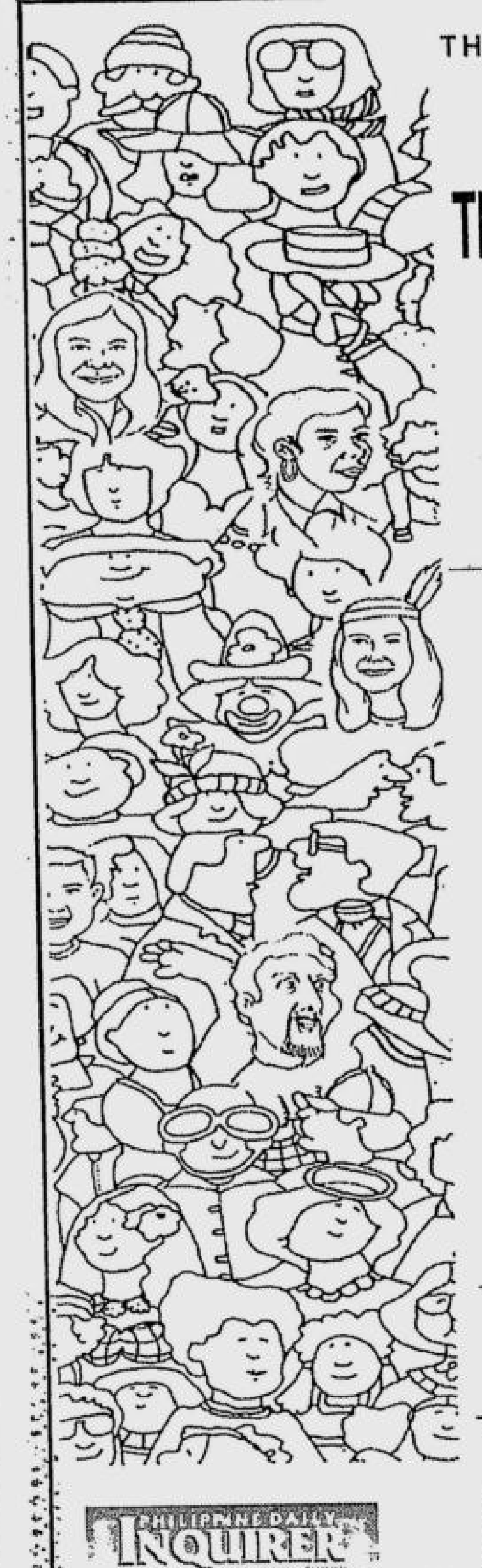
2/F Perla Compañia de Seguros Mansion
117 Carlos Palanca Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City
Synopsis of Annual Statement
As of December 31, 2001

ADMITTED ASSETS		
Treasury Bills		P 185,950,000.00
Bonds		227,178,626.66
Stocks		60,490,821.19
Real Estate		31,003,872.21
Other Loans		2,300,000.00
Security Fund		140,167.00
Other Investments		1,160,000.00
Cash on Hand and in Banks		13,938,380.30
Premiums Receivable		1,273,976.47
Premiums Due From Ceding Companies		395,997.05
Premiums Reserve Withheld by Ceding Companies		273,178.51
Reinsurance Recoverable on Losses		1,610,570.10
Accrued Investment Income		61,614.55
Total Admitted Assets		P 525,777,204.04
LIABILITIES		
Losses & Claims Payable		P 77,229,199.48
Loss Adjustment Expenses Payable		5,502,710.91
Reserve for Unearned Premiums		53,490,870.45
Reserve for Catastrophe Loss		60,100.84
Premiums Due to Reinsurers		6,826,863.14
Premiums Reserve Withheld for Reinsurers		2,523,628.22
Commissions Payable		1,881,308.12
Taxes Payable		3,861,879.91
Unearned Bond Discount		7,221,769.65
Other Liabilities		810,312.59
Total Liabilities		P 159,408,639.31
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Capital Stock Paid-Up	P 100,000,000.00	
Contributed Surplus	33,000.00	
Fluctuation Reserve - Foreign Exchange	14,725,082.73	
Retained Earnings	251,610,482.00	
Total Stockholders' Equity		P 366,368,564.73
Total Liabilities & Stockholders' Equity		P 525,777,204.04

(This synopsis prepared from the 2001 Annual Statement, approved by the Insurance Commissioner is published pursuant to Section 225 of the Insurance Code of 1978, as amended)



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Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 551-2200; 450-7001

STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Head Office and Branches)
As of June 18, 2002

ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Items	P 4,105,961,327
Due from Bangko Sentral	12,306,945,320
Due from Other Banks	1,614,098,300
Interbank Loans Receivable	10,596,859,415
Trading Account Securities (Net)	328,312,838
Investment in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)	86,516,863,603
Loans and Discounts and Advances (Net)	92,398,248,326
Underwriting Accounts (Net)	111,511,652
Equity Investments (Net)	5,997,793,279
Bank Premises, Furniture,Fixtures & Equipment (Net)	4,431,389,184
Other Assets (Net):	
Property Owned/Acquired	12,535,432,014
Others	7,771,515,081
TOTAL ASSETS	P 238,714,930,339
LIABILITIES	
Demand Deposits	P 74,296,347,670
Savings Deposits	83,302,229,485
Time Deposits	16,861,803,392
Special/Other Deposits	779,602,819
Due to Bangko Sentral	35,359,830
Due to Banks	169,143,218
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders	1,996,971,539
Bills Payable:	
BSP-Rediscounting/Special Programs	984,522,966
Deposits Substitutes	258,076,651
Others	29,898,337,166
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits	2,967,484,345
Other Liabilities	6,370,576,698
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P 217,920,455,779
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	
Capital Stock	P 9,200,000,000
Surplus	7,296,993,886
Surplus Reserves	3,661,412,077
Other Capital Accounts	636,068,597
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	20,794,474,560
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P 238,714,930,339
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P 6,957,738,787
Bills for Collection	908,837,229
Spot/Future Exchange Sold	6,963,556,098
Spot/Future Exchange Bought	(465,279,377)
Assets Held under Trust and Investment Management Agreements	13,051,160,323
Invested in:	
- Government Securities	6,239,238,887
- Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Sharer of Stocks	1,024,954,066
- Loans and Discounts	1,478,880,306
- Other Assets	4,308,287,064
Accountabilities:	
- Trust and Other Fiduciary	1,708,464,984
- Common Trust Funds	1,830,245,230
- Investment/Fund Management	9,512,450,109
Other Contingent Accounts	32,854,567,228
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P 60,270,582,288

Other Information

1 Deposits of:	
a. Government	P 115,331,270,797
b. Banks	4,852,940,136
c. Trust Department	90,213,081
2. Compliance with Magna Carta Law:	
a. Prescribed Ratio of Compliance for 6% (Small Enterpises)	226.68%
b. Prescribed Ratio of Compliance for 2% (Medium Enterprises)	227.61%
3. Amount of Non-Performing Loans	28,879,057,604
4. Ratio of Non-Performing Loans to Total Loan Portfolio	24.50%
5 Amount of Classified Loans and Other Risk Assets	44,956,745,047
6. General Provision for Loan Losses	1,288,142,722
7. Specific Provision for Loan Losses	13,685,967,441
8. Return on Equity (ROE)	11.67%
9. Amount of DOSRI Loans/Advances	1,542,836,933
10. Ratio of DOSRI Loans/Advances to Total Loan Portfolio	1.31%
11. Amount of Past Due DOSRI Loans/Advances	17,998

We, ANDRES C. SARMIENTO and MARGARITO B. TEVES of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above Statement of Condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

Sgd. ANDRES C SARMIENTO
FVP-Controllership Group

Sgd. MARGARITO B. TEVES
President and CEO

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 10th day of July, 2002 in Manila, affiants exhibiting to me their Res Certificate No 9452987, issued in Manila on January 9, 2002 and Res. Certificate No. 00667824 issued in Manila on March 27, 2002.

REYNAULD R. VILLAFUERTE
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2003
PTR No 6774233
Issued on January 25, 2002
Makati City

Doc. No 370
Page No. 75
Book No. II
Series of 2002

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Bank and Financial Subsidiaries)
As of June 18, 2002

ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Items	P 4,113,813,626
Due from Bangko Sentral	12,306,945,320
Due from Other Banks	1,696,941,693
Interbank Loans Receivable	10,596,859,415
Trading Account Securities (Net)	328,312,838
Investment in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)	86,590,174,069
Loans and Discounts and Advances (Net)	92,295,641,537
Underwriting Accounts (Net)	111,511,652
Equity Investments (Net)	5,245,443,528
Bank Premises, Furniture,Fixtures & Equipment (Net)	4,555,606,164
Other Assets (Net):	
Property Owned/Acquired	12,554,460,725
Others	8,864,433,679
TOTAL ASSETS	P 239,260,144,246
LIABILITIES	
Demand Deposits	P 74,282,547,635
Savings Deposits	83,284,709,532
Time Deposits	16,861,803,392
Special/Other Deposits	779,602,819
Due to Bangko Sentral	35,359,830
Due to Banks	169,143,218
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders	2,006,360,704
Bills Payable:	
BSP-Rediscounting/Special Programs	984,522,966
Deposits Substitutes	258,076,651
Others	29,898,337,166
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits	3,500,442,025
Other Liabilities	6,392,022,290
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P 218,452,926,228
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	
Capital Stock	P 9,200,000,000
Surplus	7,309,672,235
Surplus Reserves	3,661,475,186
Other Capital Accounts	636,068,597
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P 20,807,216,018
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P 239,260,144,246
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P 6,857,738,787
Bills for Collection	908,837,229
Spot/Future Exchange Sold	6,963,556,098
Spot/Future Exchange Bought	(465,279,377)
Assets Held under Trust and Investment Management	13,051,160,323
Agreements Invested in:	
- Government Securities	6,239,238,887
- Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stocks	1,024,954,066
- Loans and Discounts	1,478,680,306
- Other Assets	4,308,287,064
Accountabilities:	
- Trust and Other Fiduciary	1,708,464,984
- Common Trust Funds	1,830,245,230
- Investment/Fund Management	9,512,450,109
Other Contingent Accounts	32,854,567,228
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P 60,270,582,288

Other Information

1 Deposits of:	
a. Government	P 115,331,270,797
b. Banks	4,852,940,136
c. Trust Department	90,213,081

2. List of Bank's Financial Subsidiaries
   a. LBP Leasing Corporation
   b. LBP Financial Services, SPA
   c. LBP Remittance Co., USA

We, ANDRES C. SARMIENTO and MARGARITO B. TEVES of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above Consolidated Statement of Condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

Sgd. ANDRES C SARMIENTO
FVP-Controllership Group

Sgd. MARGARITO B. TEVES
President and CEO

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Notary Public
Until December 31, 2003
PTR No 6774233
Issued on January 25, 2002
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SUV sticker shock

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

IF YOU are planning to buy any 4x2 SUV (meaning, the likes of Expedition, Trooper, Pajero and Patrol), you have a few months window of opportunity to escape higher taxation.

Under the proposed priority legislation to be submitted by Malacañang when Congress resumes session next week, the excise tax exemption of the sports utility vehicles, the favored transport of the rich and politicians, would be removed.

There are two modes now being considered on how to tax all motor vehicles: either through engine displacement or through wholesale price. In either mode, the SUVs would be hardest hit.

Depending on the size of the engine and whether it is gasoline- or diesel-fed, the sticker price of Expedition, Trooper or Pajero could go higher by 25 or 35 percent.

But if Congress decides that the excise tax would be based on the wholesale price, the SUV sticker price would go up by 25 percent for those whose wholesale price is P2 million or lower. For those priced P2 million and above, the excise tax would jump by a steep 100 percent.

Even Asian utility vehicles like the Tamaraw Revo, Mitsubishi Adventure, and Isuzu Crosswind as well as vans and pickups would lose their zero-tax exemption. It would either be charged with 3-percent excise tax regardless of engine displacement or, under the value-based scheme, also 3 percent if the wholesale price is below P600,000.

Cheaper cars coming

AS FAR as locally assembled cars are concerned, the shift in excise tax scheme would mean lower retail prices, based on the proposed amendments.

This would be specially true if the value-based taxation favored by American and European carmakers would be adopted.

Honda thinks prices for City and Civic would go down by an average of 6 percent under the wholesale price scheme. The two-liter Accord would be the biggest beneficiary, with its retail price projected to go down by 17 percent to P994,963 from the current P1,081,481 suggested tag.

Under the engine-based scheme, only the retail price of the 1.3-liter City (5-percent cut) and the Accord (8-percent cut) would benefit; the effects on the bigger-engine City and Civic would be "revenue neutral."

The controversial CR-V, which now enjoys an excise tax-exempt status from its reclassification from an SUV to an AUV, would be hit by a 3-percent price increase under the engine-base tax scheme or a 13-percent higher price tag under the wholesale price scheme.

Cloud 9 texting

THE BATTLE for the lucrative text market is literally going to the skies.

Singapore Airlines is now progressively introducing short message service in all its planes.

From August until October, passengers taking the Las Vegas-bound B777 may send text messages like "I am flying 30,000 feet above the Pacific with the stewardess sitting on my lap" for free. Beyond October, SIA would

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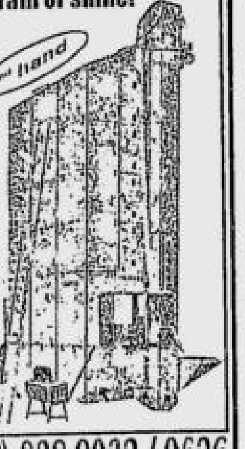

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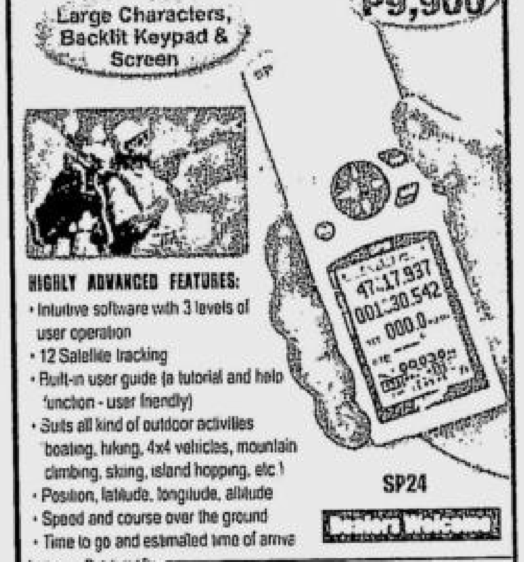

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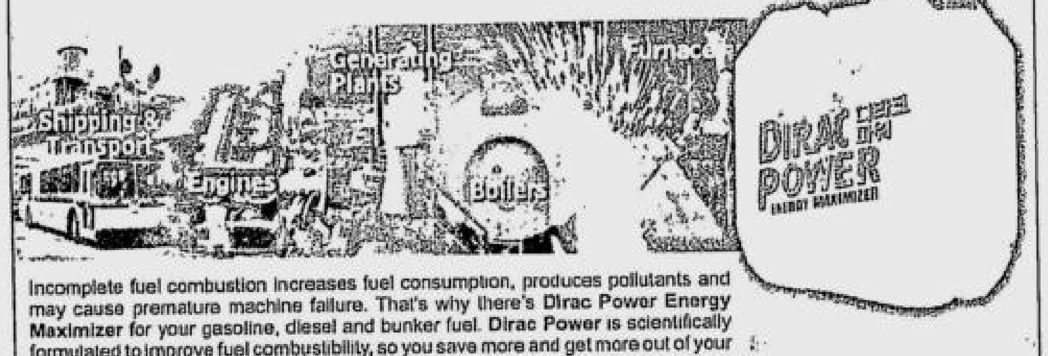

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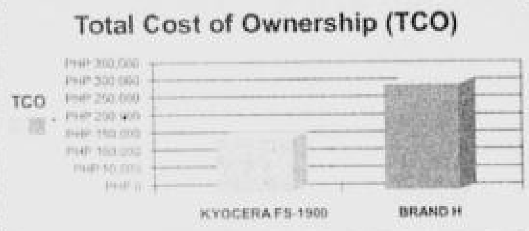

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IMF proposes lowering of corporate income tax

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund has urged the Philippine government to scrap the costly income tax holidays currently being offered as incentives to priority sectors and investment projects. It, instead, called for the lowering of the corporate income tax.

This was disclosed yesterday by a ranking finance official who said that based on internal DOF simulations, the corporate income tax rate could be reduced to 28 percent from the current 32 percent if the granting of income tax holidays were discontinued.

"The IMF does not want the income tax holidays. Their proposal is for us to give up tax holidays and instead lower the tax rate for the sake of open competition and equal playing field," the official said.

But the official said the DOF would still have to study the IMF proposal before making any decision.

The official stressed that the removal of income tax holidays would not necessarily drive away foreign investors because only Taiwan and South Korea had existing tax-paring provisions with the Philippines under bilateral tax treaties.

"The tax-paring provision in tax treaties allows the investors to deduct even the value of incentives (given by the host country) against tax payments in their country of origin as tax is usually on the global income," the official said.

But since several investors come from countries that do not honor tax paring, such as the United States and Japan, the official noted that the removal of income tax holidays would not significantly reduce the attractiveness of the Philippines as an investment destination.

Fiscal incentives, including income tax holidays and exemption from import duties, cost the government about P187.2 billion in foregone revenues last year, up from P155.64 billion in 2000, based on reported DOF estimates.

The DOF and the Board of Investments are currently at odds over how the tax incentives can be rationalized.

Economist Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities said the government must carefully study the matter first before changing its incentive policies.

"We're not sure if we can attract investments without incentives," he said.

BRANDING, INNOVATION

Novelty shop thrives despite the odds

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE INSPIRATION to go into business comes from many different sources. For entrepreneur Steven Ching, who put up the Characters Unlimited chain of retail stores, the inspiration came during a seminar in Taiwan sometime in 1987 from some of the world's most successful entrepreneurs.

The seminar tackled entrepreneurship in Taiwan and was highlighted by inspirational talks by successful entrepreneurs, including the owners of Apple and Acer Computers.

"The entrepreneurs at the seminar were already talking about what globalization would do in 20 years and the importance of building and protecting a brand. When I came back, I became determined to start my own brand to survive," Ching, who was 24 years old at that time, said in an interview.

Ching was also prompted to develop his own concept as his first company—Statio Haus Center (now Creative Plus Inc.)—was already feeling the pinch of high royalty payments to the owners of the foreign popular characters that the firm was importing.

CHARACTERS Unlimited branch at Robinsons Pasig

Robby Rabbit

"I was already engaged in the buy and sell business at the time I went to the seminar in Taiwan. Some friends, my wife and I were importing some Snoopy items. We wanted to import more but we were constrained by high royalty payments and big commitments, so we decided to develop our own character," Ching explained.

The brand and the character was Robby Rabbit, an adorable, little white rabbit that Steven's wife Carol sketched.

"She drew a rabbit because we were both born on the year of the rabbit. We called him Robby since it sounded similar to Rabbit. When she drew it I told her it was very cute, but she was not confident. It was only when she showed it to her sister when we went to the United States that she finally agreed to register the character in the US," Ching said.

Robby Rabbit was registered with the US National Library of Congress in early 1998 and brought back to the Philippines to conquer the local retailing industry through Characters Unlimited.

Ching started with just three product lines bearing Robby Rabbit designs, which were presented to retail giant Shoemart in 1989.

"We were very lucky because when they saw the samples they liked it immediately. We had few items at the start, but because of their support we were able to increase our production, until eventually we were given our own cart in Shoemart," Ching said.

Robby Rabbit products now include children's bags, apparel and novelty items, lunch boxes, ceramic products, tumblers, canisters, mugs, caps, towels, stationery and other collectible items.

Ching said the group developed Robby Rabbit while it was building up market acceptance for its other imported characters such as Snoopy, Barbie and Garfield.

One-stop shop

He said he and his partners were able to get the license to use these popular characters for merchandising because of their innovation and attention to quality.

"We have our own research group that develops new designs and products, and we also have to be very careful about quality because if we don't they will not renew our license," he said.

SUCCESS STORY

Ching added that all the products and styles have to be approved by the principals in the US before they could be produced commercially in the Philippines.

With the diversified product range, Ching and his partners decided to put up stand alone retail shops also called Characters Unlimited, which also marked the 10th birthday celebration of Robby Rabbit.

"We have developed full product ranges for the characters that we had especially Robby Rabbit so we decided to put up a store so we can display all our items," he said.

The first few Characters Unlimited stores were set up in the Robinsons chain of department stores. Now, there are already 13 stores selling products bearing the characters of the Sesame Street group, Barbie, Snoopy, Robby Rabbit, Barney, Pokemon and recently Mickey Mouse and Winnie the Pooh.

It has become the country's one-stop shop for licensed cartoon characters and branded merchandise. He, however, said that Robby Rabbit remained the most popular character with Robby Rabbit products accounting for about half of the retail outlets' total sales.

Proud of Robby Rabbit

"We really reserve our best ideas for Robby Rabbit because he is homegrown," he said adding that the company was giving all of its products equal attention in terms of quality, designs, prices and marketing.

Ching said Characters Unlimited had continued to do well despite the economic crisis although he stressed that the flooding of imitations from China was hurting the business.

"We are all affected by copyright infringement from China, so we have to look for ways to bring down our cost and to look at alternatives," he said.

Ching, however, stressed that the quality of Philippine-made goods was far better than those coming from China and that it was something that Characters Unlimited was capitalizing on.

He disclosed that Characters Unlimited was laying the groundwork for the franchising of its concept to expand the network. It hopes to award its first franchising contract next year. Characters Unlimited is also beefing up support for Robby Rabbit such as the launch of a fun club and school tours.

"We should all be proud of Robby Rabbit because he is a Filipino," he said.

Banco de Oro's 1st half profit reaches ₱503M

BANCO de Oro Universal Bank of retail magnate Henry Sy yesterday said its unaudited first semester net income more than doubled to P503.3 million compared with the P241.6 million recorded in the same period last year.

In a statement, the bank said: "The improved profitability came primarily from stronger fee income, the expansion of fixed-income dealership activities, a non-recurring gain from secondary shares sold during the bank's initial public offering and the 14-percent reduction in operating expenses."

Banco de Oro said the reduction in operating expenses came from the synergies derived from the merger between BDO and Dao Heng Bank last year.

BDO said the substantial increase in the first half income was achieved despite the P1.03 billion set aside for loan-loss provisions which brought its total provisions as of end-June this year to P3.2 billion.

BDO said the net interest income in the first half amounted to P1.055 billion, higher than the projections for the current year.

The bank, which listed in the stock market last May, said that given the good stock market performance in the first half, it should meet its full-year income target of P978 million. *Elena R. Torrijos*

ICT sector sees 100% growth

THE INFORMATION Technology and E-Commerce Council (ITECC) yesterday said it was expecting the information and communication technology (ICT) industry to double in value to $1.6 billion by 2004 as demand for high-tech services improve.

Presidential assistant for ICT development and ITECC executive director Virgilio L. Pena said the projected growth in the ICT industry could only be achieved if the government and the private sector would join hands in narrowing the gap between the demand of the ICT firms and the quality of the country's ICT graduates.

Pena said there were questions on the quality of the country's ICT graduates but added that the Philippines would still have a bright future in this field if the players would get their act together.

Pena said that while more than half or $864 million of the ICT industry would be in call centers by 2004, he expected other ICT sectors to bloom over the next three years—medical transcription ($485 million by 2004 from $40 million in 2001), software development ($268 million from $115 million), and animation ($40 million from $20 million). *Gil C. Cabacungan*

ATN focusing on core business

PUBLICLY listed ATN Holdings Inc. yesterday announced plans to sell properties in order to raise funds for its service-based businesses.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, ATN president Arsenio Ng said the company was planning to "re-channel liquidity" into the expansion of its interests in healthcare and multimedia services, and into satellite uplink provider Transpacific Broadcast International Inc. (TBGI).

ATN currently has investments in real estate development through subsidiaries Palladian Land Development Inc., the developer and part owner of Summit One Tower One located at Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City, and Advanced Home Concepts Development Corp. It also has properties around Ever Gotesco in Pasig City.

The disclosure did not specify which assets would be sold.

ATN Holdings Inc., formerly known as the Jabpract Mining and Industrial Corp., was incorporated in 1961 to engage in mining and oil exploration. It debuted at the Philippine Stock Exchange in 1970.

Following the entry of a new management in 1995, the company changed its primary purpose to that of a holding company. Its mining and oil exploration ventures became the firm's secondary business. The corporate name was likewise changed to ATN Holdings.

The company has investments in Managed Care Philippines Inc. and H&Q Philippines Ventures Inc. *Doris C. Dumlao*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Tuesday, July 16, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17	17.5	17	17.25	54,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	47.5	50	47.5	50	445,800
China Banking Corp.	620	620	620	620	20
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	28.5	28.5	28	28	254,600
First E-Bank Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.26	1.26	76,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	33.5	34	33	34	318,500
Philippine National Bank	31.5	32	31.5	32	11,500
Security Bank Corp.	13.5	14.25	13.5	14.25	15,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	19.25	19.5	19.25	19.5	106,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1310	1310	1310	1310	1,480
Sun Life Financial Serv.	990	1000	990	1000	360
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	23.75	23.75	23.75	23.75	10,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.63	0.63	280,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	535	550	535	550	13,120
ISM Communications Corp.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	2,500,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	325	325	317.5	320	94,330
Ivantage Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	100,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.013	0.013	0.011	0.012	52,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	20.25	20.25	19.75	20.25	10,700
Manila Electric Co. B	28.5	28.5	27.5	28	622,100
Petron Corp.	1.76	1.78	1.74	1.76	2,124,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.78	1.8	1.78	1.8	7,235,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.4	2.44	2.4	2.44	128,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Cement Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	50,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	12,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	127,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.75	13	12.75	13	22,800
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	32	32.5	32	32.5	83,800
RFM Corp.	1	1	0.99	0.99	400,000
Swift Food Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	3,000
San Miguel Corp. A	47.5	47.5	47	47	46,600
San Miguel Corp. B	53.5	54	53.5	53.5	163,200
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5,519,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.3	2.36	2.3	2.36	7,089,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	400,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	50,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	5,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.31	0.34	3,600,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.045	0.045	0.04	0.04	800,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	200,000
First Phil. Hldgs. Corp.	14.5	15	14.5	14.75	1,820,200
Macroasia Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	150,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	3,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	310,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	3,520,000
Music Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	360,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	20,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	200,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.0775	0.0775	600,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	4	5	4	5	37,000
Federal Chemicals Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	200,000
Metro Alliance Holdings-B	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	40,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	40,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.31	2,890,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	1,000,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	24	24	24	24	110,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	200
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.002	0.002	0.002	.0.002	1,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.9	6	5.8	5.9	6,285,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	350,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2	2.02	2	2	116,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.16	0.19	0.16	0.19	3,780,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.2	0.205	0.2	0.2	2,340,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.36	2.36	2.3	2.3	676,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.78	1.82	1.78	1.82	191,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.037	200,000
SM Development Corp.	0.82	0.83	0.82	0.83	110,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6	6	5.8	5.9	5,268,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.039	0.039	0.039	0.039	1,200,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	10,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	110,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	2,000,000
Interport Res.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	12,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	50,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	100,000

CURRENCIES

July 16, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	0.996115	1.000000	50.4760
Japan	Yen	0.008562	0.008595	0.4338
United Kingdom	Pound	1.563702	1.569800	79.2372
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.127709	0.128207	6.4714
Switzerland	Franc	0.681524	0.684182	34.5348
Canada	Dollar	0.647501	0.650026	32.8107
Singapore	Dollar	0.572809	0.575043	29.0259
Australia	Dollar	0.557735	0.559910	28.2620
Bahrain	Dinar	2.642356	2.652661	133.8957
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.265631	0.266667	13.4603
Brunei	Dollar	0.568559	0.570776	28.8105
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000111	0.000111	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.024487	0.024582	1.2408
UAE	Dirham	0.271229	0.272287	13.7440
Korea	Won	0.000858	0.000861	0.0435
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.003900	50.6729
Argentina	Real	0.279024	0.280112	14.1389
Brazil	Real	0.347806	0.349162	17.6243
Denmark	Kroner	0.134992	0.135518	6.8404
India	Rupee	0.020433	0.020513	1.0354
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.262171	0.263193	13.2849
Mexico	New Peso	0.102260	0.102659	5.1818
New Zealand	Dollar	0.482918	0.484801	24.4708
Norway	Kroner	0.135559	0.136088	6.8692
Pakistan	Rupee	0.016733	0.016798	0.8479
South Africa	Rand	0.099624	0.100013	5.0483
Sweden	Kroner	0.108011	0.108432	5.4732
Syria	Pound	0.019379	0.019455	0.9820
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.030176	0.030294	1.5291
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000749	0.000752	0.0380

DISCLOSURES

ELECTED directors of **ATN Holdings Inc.** were Arsenio Ng, Mario Mina, Roberto Abaya, Hilario Ng, Santos Cejoco, Bonifacio Choa, Hyland Si, Chee Chong Cheah, Yu Ting Guan, Patrick Caoile and Jose Corpuz.

• • •

MEDCO Holdings Inc. denied having any information that could explain the 40-percent drop in its share price that fell from P0.08 to P0.048 per share.

• • •

MUSIC Corp. said it would guarantee the $2 million credit facility of its subsidiary **Music Semiconductors Philippines Inc.** from **KBC Bank, N.V.**

• • •

ELECTED directors of **William, Gothong & Aboitiz Inc.** were Victor Chiongbian, Enrique Aboitiz Jr., Luis Aboitiz Jr., William Joseph Chiongbian II, Brezilda Gothong Co, Manuel Go, Bowen Gothong, Manuel Manalac and Bernardo Villegas.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Gov't moves to improve law on money laundering

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Anti-Money Laundering Council (Amlac) is set to ask Congress to scrap the P4-million minimum benchmark for transactions covered by stringent reporting requirements under the Anti-Money Laundering Act.

Amlac chair and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura yesterday told reporters the council was ready to submit its proposed amendments when Congress resumes session on July 22.

"There should be required reporting of any transaction that is suspicious of any amount and there should be required reporting of covered transactions," Buenaventura said.

Among the preconditions to the Philippines' removal from Paris-based Financial Action Task Force's watchlist of countries deemed uncooperative in the global fight against money laundering was to address the P4 million level, which was seen as too high to make the law effective.

The council was earlier planning to propose that the benchmark coverage be simply lowered from P4 million to P500,000.

But Buenaventura yesterday said the proposed amendments to Congress would seek the outright "takeout" of the P4-million trigger level.

"We are in the process of giving them the letter. We'll work with the legislature to see which ones could be addressed via legislation and the others, we'll see if we could address through the implementing rules and regulations," Buenaventura said.

Buenaventura and Securities and Exchange Commission Chair and Anti-Money Laundering Council member Lilia Bautista recently led a team to France to convince the FATF that the Anti-Money Laundering Act, enacted in end-September last year, was sufficient to meet its requirements.

The FATF also wanted the anti-dirty money law to be applied retroactively so that money laundering activities before Oct. 17, 2001 could be covered by the law.

The Paris-based task force wanted Congress to amend the law as soon as possible. Sources said the FATF might revive the economic sanctions that its members imposed on Philippine transactions if the country's lawmakers would not make the amendments a priority.

FATF members imposed economic sanctions on the Philippines from June to September 2001 for its failure to enact an anti-money laundering law. The sanctions subjected the country's international transactions to more rigorous and difficult processes. This delayed even the dollar remittances of overseas Filipino workers.

Cocktales

From page B3

be charging per text sent, but it is not immediately clear by how much.

The text service is available in all classes through the in-seat TV monitor.

Meanwhile, Smart said the popular 64K Super SIM cards are now available and that post-paid subscribers wanting to upgrade to the more powerful card should no longer have to wait two to three weeks as quite a number had encountered during the initial launch.

Smart spokesperson Ramon Isberto said the 64K SIM cards should be available on demand from any Smart sales office.

Unable to Copa

THE SEASON for filing annual reports is over and the government-run Philippine National Construction Corp. again failed to make the deadline, thus forcing the Philippine Stock Exchange to suspend yesterday trading for the state-controlled firm.

Not even the appointment of certified-big bike enthusiast Luis Sison as PNCC president could apparently speed up the listed construction company from complying with such a basic reportorial requirement.

Sison, by the way, happens to be the lawyer-husband of Copa founding member Triccie Cepeda, who loves, like Copa's Pastor Saycon, to lecture others about, hmmm, corporate governance.

Heard through the grapevine

THE MUCH-DELAYED Batangas port project will now push through after the left-leaning barangay chairwoman who for years has been blocking the multibillion-peso seaport was roundly thrashed in Monday's election.

No less than ex-Batangas Gov. J. Antonio Leviste, backed by Malacañang and financed by the project proponents FF Cruz, First Gas, and Asian Terminal, conducted a 15-day special operation in the barangay to unseat the "termites" trying to wreck what clearly is a national-interest project.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

PSE . . .

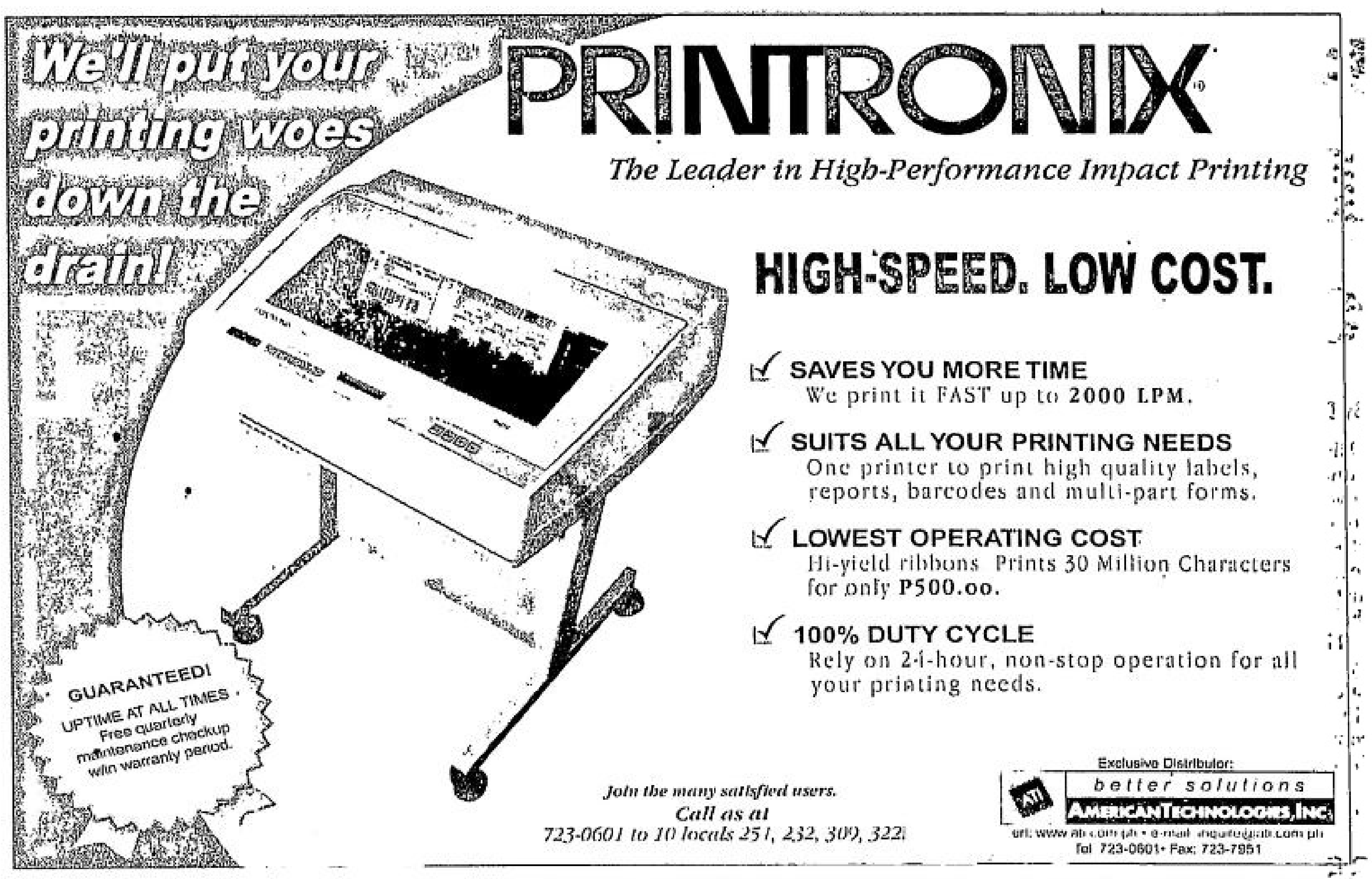
From page B2

nual reports for every fiscal year. It slaps a basic fine of P50,000 and P5,000 in daily fines after the lapse of the grace period for submission of the requirements.

The local bourse, however, is in the process of revising its penalty system against violations committed by listed companies, aiming to shift its focus toward non-monetary sanctions.

"The shift from monetary to non-monetary penalties will change the perception that the PSE is too focused on money-making," PSE president Ernest Leung earlier said. "We are trying to correct this and we think that there are other measures, like public reprimand, which can effectively deter violations."

It was not clear whether the three companies suspended yesterday would be covered by the new regulations.



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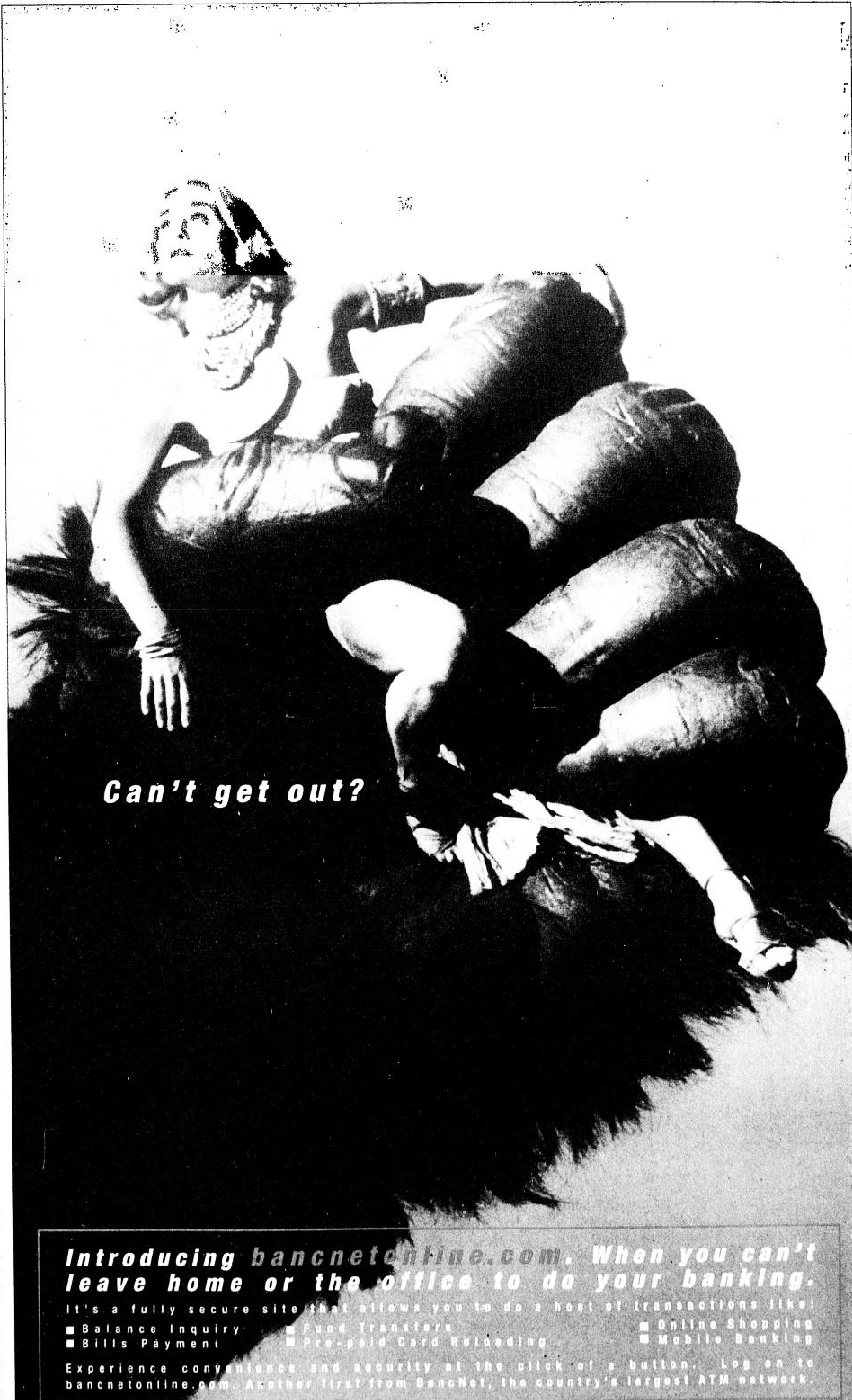

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US job seekers face longer searches, less compensation

NEW YORK—About 25 percent of US job seekers with the greatest earnings potential accepted positions in the second quarter that paid less than their previous jobs, according to a new study released Monday.

Employment outplacement firm Challenger, Gray and Christmas said that figure was the worst since 1986, when it started tracking labor market movements for its quarterly job index survey.

The job market was even grimmer than in the 2001 fourth quarter, when the economic fallout from the Sept. 11 attacks forced 23 percent of respondents to take lower paying jobs.

This compared with only 9 percent in the second quarter last year.

In addition, job searches lengthened to a record 3.6 months in the second quarter from 2.1 months in the year-ago period, the firm said.

"Employers are in no rush to hire and apparently they are secure enough to believe they can find the talent they need for a lot less money," John Challenger, chief executive of the Chicago-based firm, said in a statement.

The median salary of these mid- to high-level workers in their former positions was $70,000 a year, according to the survey of about 3,000 managers and executives around the country.

Challenger said one way to cut down on time spent job hunting is by relocating to a more prosperous region. But the survey shows many people are not uprooting home and family for fear of getting laid off again.

The index's relocation rate fell sharply to 12 percent in the second quarter from 17 percent in the year-ago period.

Challenger said the combination of less pay and lengthy employment searches could hurt the sluggish economic recovery by slowing consumer spending, which accounts for two-thirds of the economy. *Reuters*

Expansion places investment banks in minority

NEW YORK—They're called minority-owned investment banks because of the racial makeup of their founders, but these securities firms are now also in the minority because their businesses are growing while the rest of Wall Street scales back.

Big investment houses like Merrill Lynch & Co. Inc. and Credit Suisse First Boston have laid off thousands of workers as profits drop amid a stock market slump. But at the top 15 minority-owned US firms, staffing levels have risen 14 percent in the last three years, while underwriting activity has more than doubled, according to Black Enterprise magazine.

"Certain opportunities are made available to us because companies may have directives to work with minority-owned firms," Christopher Williams, chief executive of Williams Capital Group, told Reuters in an interview. But at the end of the day, he said, it's all about performance.

"The way we're evaluated with the client is: Who in this group (of firms) is going to serve us better?" he said.

From 1999 until the end of 2001, the number of employees at the top 15 minority-owned investment banks, such as Williams Capital and Blaylock & Partners, has increased to 540 from 473, while total deal volume handled by the firms rose to $664.4 billion from $257.2 billion, according to Black Enterprise.

Meanwhile, the securities industry has slashed more than 41,000 jobs, and top firms such as Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and Morgan Stanley have posted persistently declining profits.

Blaylock & Partners has embarked on one of the most ambitious expansions, adding 25 staffers since the beginning of the year to bring its workforce to 75. It is boosting its equity operations, a move that may prove fortuitous when the market turns around.

"We still think we'll get a pretty good return on that investment in intellectual capital," Ronald Blaylock, the company's CEO and founder, told Reuters in a telephone interview.

At a growing number of the nation's big firms, minorities are gaining power in the boardroom. Among the most powerful black executives are Stanley O'Neal, who stands poised to be chief executive of Merrill Lynch & Co. Inc., the No. 1 US brokerage. Ken Chenault, who is running credit card giant American Express Co., and Adebayo Ogunlesi, recently named investment banking head at Credit Suisse First Boston.

Another, smaller, group is also gathering steam: minority women.

"This is a major historical moment," said Ella Edmondson Bell, a professor at Dartmouth College's business school, pointing to a recent panel of black women on Wall Street.

"Fifteen years ago, which is not that long, you would not have seen this," she said.

The panel included directors and vice presidents from Merrill, Aon Risk Services and Washington Mutual. Its participants acknowledged the difficulty of being a "double minority": a black woman.

"I am the only black woman that some of my clients and some of my colleagues deal with on a day-to-day basis," said Amy Ellis-Simon, a director on Merrill's convertible bond sales desk. "On the trading floor, it's harder being a woman."

Others on the panel said the securities industry still had a long way to go, particularly for black women at the highest executive levels.

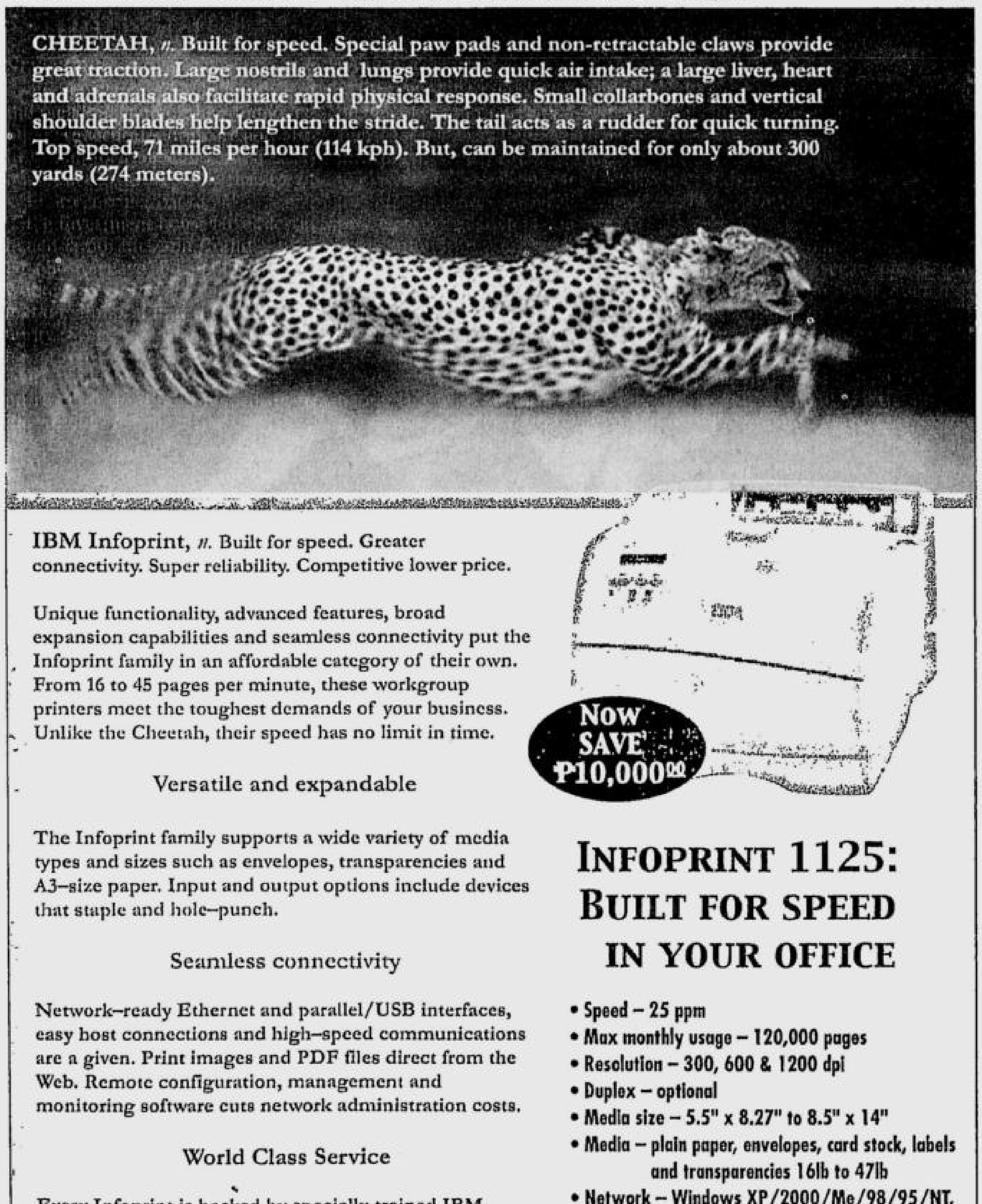
"There are still far too few sisters in the boardroom on Wall Street," said Westina Mathews Shatteen, first vice president at Merrill and the panel's organizer. "Diversity isn't important just because it's good human relations. It's important because it's good business."

Some banking veterans credit the fiercely competitive nature of Wall Street with creating a meritocracy where color is not a major factor.

"Everyone's treated the same—poorly," Williams said with a laugh, referring to his times as an underling at Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc.

"People tended to look at you and value you in how you performed," he said, adding that he never felt like he was the victim of discrimination.

In 1994, Williams left Lehman with two colleagues to form his own group, which was originally a unit of Jefferies Group Inc. before becoming independent. The company handled $196.2 billion of underwriting deals in 2001, tops among minority-owned investment banks, according to Black Enterprise. *Reuters*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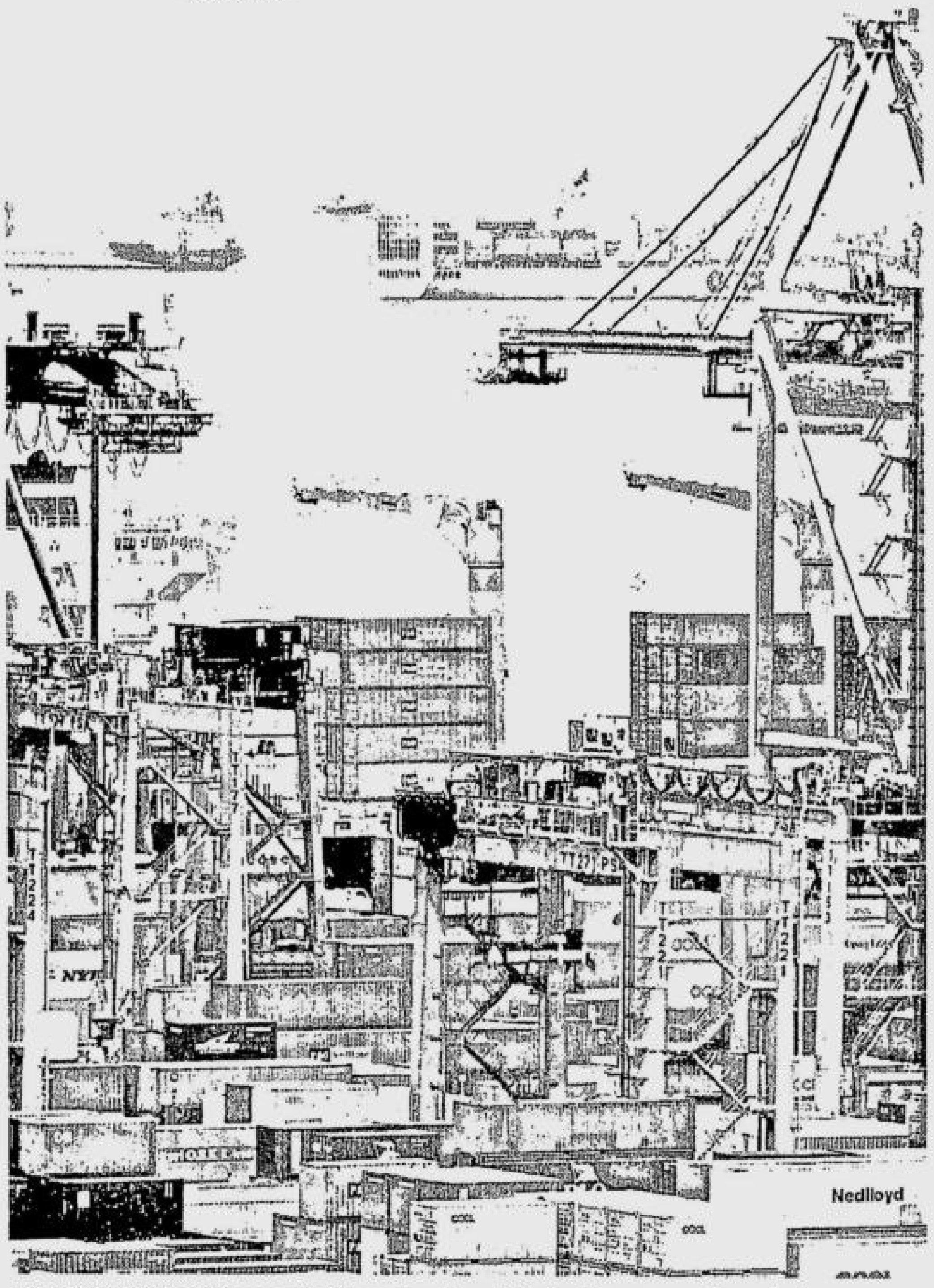


AN OVERVIEW of Singapore's Keppel port as shipping liners pass through the passage in Singapore. The head of Singapore port operator, PSA Group, will make way for a leader with "fresh perspectives," as the city-state's position as a shipping hub comes under increasing competition from Malaysia. PSA operates one of the world's busiest ports but has been criticized in recent times for inflexibility, as it has lost business to Malaysia's neighboring Port of Tanjung Pelepas. AFP

No classic capitulation for investors

LONDON—The agonizing wait for a big-bang washout in stocks may turn into something like waiting for Godot in Samuel Beckett's play—it might never arrive.

On Monday, European shares sank 5 percent to autumn 1998 levels after slumping 8 percent last week.

The selling sparked talks that final capitulation was under way in the market, where the last bull throws in the towel.

A washout accompanied by heavy volumes can be a signal that a bear market is ending.

But just as the two tramps in Beckett's play never saw Godot, analysts warned that stock investors might likewise not see a rapid, massive washout to end the downward trend that began in March 2000.

"Some bear markets just end in a whimper," said Ron Daino, a global technical analyst at Salomon Smith Barney.

Often, it was only with much hindsight that the end of a bear market could be traced, Daino said, while others also warned investors about getting hung up on expecting a huge sell-off.

"Nobody really knows what capitulation means. It's simply a term invented for the media," said stock market historian David Schwartz.

"At the end of 1974, our worst bear market ever, it just sort of petered out. We are, however, seeing a lot of frightened people selling out and walking away from shares, which often signals a market bottom."

Monday's broad rout was a continuation of the selling seen since March, when a post-Sept. 11 recovery began to falter.

The selling has accelerated in recent weeks as profit hopes dim and US accountancy scandals mount. The deepening woes of the dollar also added to Monday's stocks slide.

Chartists who predict market trends based on graphs believe there is more downside to come.

"This is the third (major) bear market of the century and right now we don't think it's over with yet," said Ron Daino, a global technical analyst at Salomon Smith Barney in New York.

TRADERS keeping worried eyes on the board. REUTERS

The downside could be considerable.

"This bear market has probably another four to five months to go and substantial downside," said Chris Chaitow, a chartist at Collins Stewart broker in London.

European stock benchmarks could fall another 25 percent before they form a base, Chaitow said. "It's been a vicious bear market on the way down and it's still in full flood. There are a lot of companies in serious trouble."

European shares are headed for their third down year in a row. The pan-European blue chip FTSE Eurotop 300 index is down by a quarter for the year.

Europe's big sell-off on Monday was worse than Wall Street's losses, but analysts said bourses were moving in line with critical chart levels already hit in New York last week.

The US broad market benchmark S&P 500 index was singled out as having a key influence on European indices. *Reuters*

Ice cream vendors not melting away

WASHINGTON—It's a balmy Sunday afternoon at a neighborhood swimming pool near Washington, and Raj Amin is the most popular guy in town with scores of kids running toward his van: He's the ice cream man.

"The (kids) scream and holler and put on their shoes to go running for ice cream," said Jackie Jones, who rushed her still dripping-wet daughters out of the pool after hearing Amin's truck play the childhood classic "Pop Goes the Weasel."

"That's one of the things when we come to the pool—we have to wait for the ice cream man," she said.

The ageless attraction of the ice cream truck merchant, selling frozen summer treats to kids from a cramped van, with no air-conditioning, shows no sign of melting away, despite competition from supermarkets.

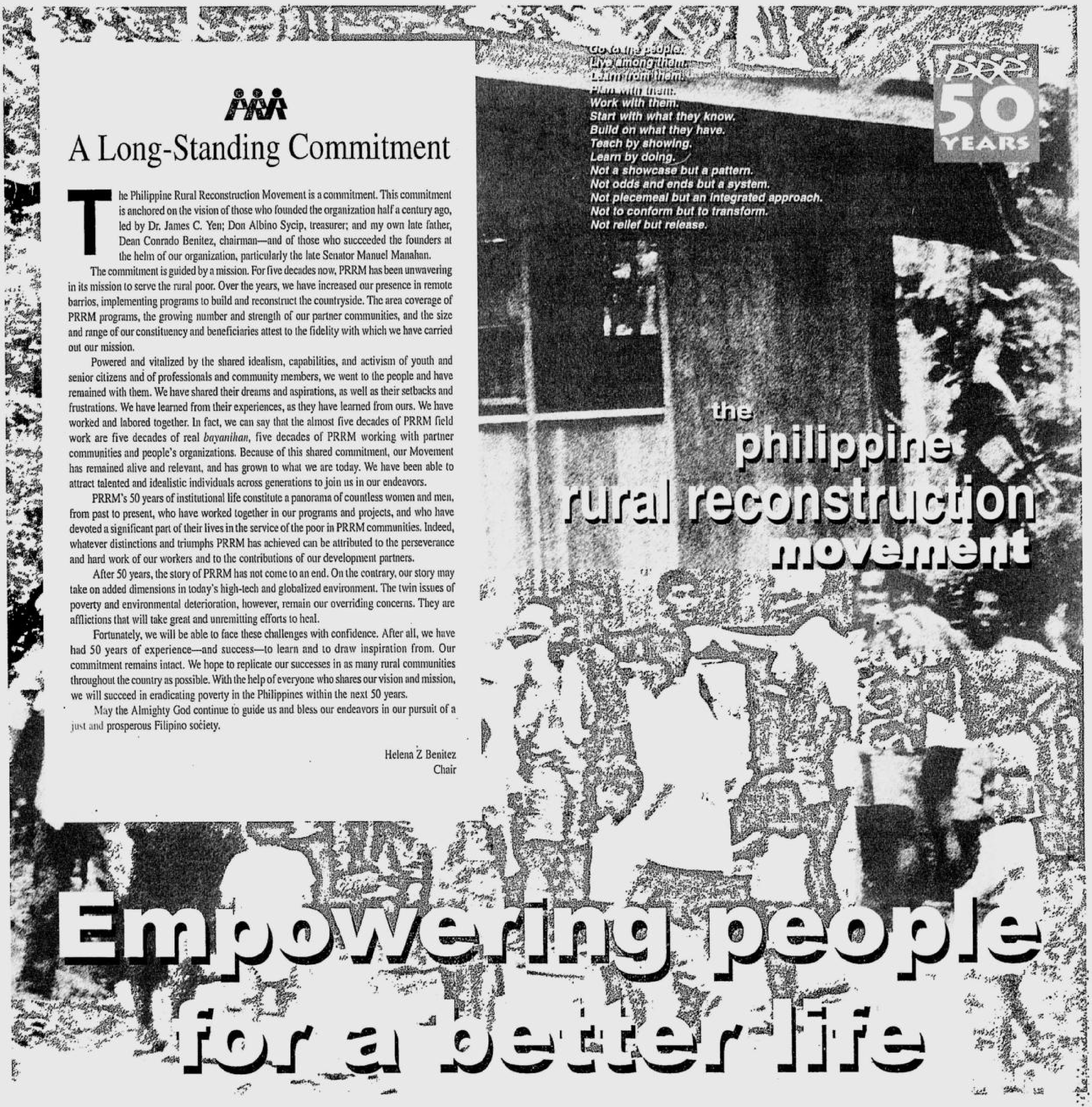
Ice cream is a national obsession for many Americans, with street vendors peddling a cool snack that practically sells itself.

According to the International Dairy Foods Association, 1.41 billion gallons (5.36 billion liters) of ice cream were produced in the United States in 2001, up from 1.38 billion gallons (5.24 billion liters) the previous year. That means each American consumed an average of 19.79 quarts (18.8 liters) of ice cream with their favorite sundaes, cones or wafers.

Ice cream "is about nostalgia," said Mitch Berliner, whose Washington company, Berliner Specialty Distributors Inc., operates the largest fleet of ice cream delivery trucks in the country. "You can't say that about broccoli and carrots."

The product line of the ice cream truck vendor, while still selling some of the same frozen snacks that helped make the Good Humor Man an American icon last century, has undergone a complete makeover in order to thwart increased competition from supermarket chains.

Despite the threat, Ice cream and frozen custard continue to ring up nearly 64 percent of their sales at shops, food-service and other retail outlets, according to the International Dairy Foods Association's latest data. The remaining 36 percent of ice cream purchased is for "at home" consumption. *Reuters*



Go to the people.
Live among them.
Learn from them.
Plan with them.
Work with them.
Start with what they know.
Build on what they have.
Teach by showing.
Learn by doing.
Not a showcase but a pattern.
Not odds and ends but a system.
Not piecemeal but an integrated approach.
Not to conform but to transform.
Not relief but release.

the philippine rural reconstruction movement

A Long-Standing Commitment

The Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement is a commitment. This commitment is anchored on the vision of those who founded the organization half a century ago, led by Dr. James C. Yen; Don Albino Sycip, treasurer; and my own late father, Dean Conrado Benitez, chairman—and of those who succeeded the founders at the helm of our organization, particularly the late Senator Manuel Manahan.

The commitment is guided by a mission. For five decades now, PRRM has been unwavering in its mission to serve the rural poor. Over the years, we have increased our presence in remote barrios, implementing programs to build and reconstruct the countryside. The area coverage of PRRM programs, the growing number and strength of our partner communities, and the size and range of our constituency and beneficiaries attest to the fidelity with which we have carried out our mission.

Powered and vitalized by the shared idealism, capabilities, and activism of youth and senior citizens and of professionals and community members, we went to the people and have remained with them. We have shared their dreams and aspirations, as well as their setbacks and frustrations. We have learned from their experiences, as they have learned from ours. We have worked and labored together. In fact, we can say that the almost five decades of PRRM field work are five decades of real *bayanihan*, five decades of PRRM working with partner communities and people's organizations. Because of this shared commitment, our Movement has remained alive and relevant, and has grown to what we are today. We have been able to attract talented and idealistic individuals across generations to join us in our endeavors.

PRRM's 50 years of institutional life constitute a panorama of countless women and men, from past to present, who have worked together in our programs and projects, and who have devoted a significant part of their lives in the service of the poor in PRRM communities. Indeed, whatever distinctions and triumphs PRRM has achieved can be attributed to the perseverance and hard work of our workers and to the contributions of our development partners.

After 50 years, the story of PRRM has not come to an end. On the contrary, our story may take on added dimensions in today's high-tech and globalized environment. The twin issues of poverty and environmental deterioration, however, remain our overriding concerns. They are afflictions that will take great and unremitting efforts to heal.

Fortunately, we will be able to face these challenges with confidence. After all, we have had 50 years of experience—and success—to learn and to draw inspiration from. Our commitment remains intact. We hope to replicate our successes in as many rural communities throughout the country as possible. With the help of everyone who shares our vision and mission, we will succeed in eradicating poverty in the Philippines within the next 50 years.

May the Almighty God continue to guide us and bless our endeavors in our pursuit of a just and prosperous Filipino society.

Helena Z Benitez
Chair

Empowering people for a better life

PRRM marks 50 years of sustainable community development

The Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM) is a private nonstock, not-for-profit organization engaged in the design and implementation of community and habitat development across the country. For 50 years now, it has been in the forefront of development work that seeks to help people in the Philippine countryside find a better life.

Founded in 1952 by a group of civic-minded citizens in education, government, and business (the group was headed by Dean Conrado Benitez of the University of the Philippines, and had been inspired by the success of the pioneering work in China of the "father of mass education and rural reconstruction," Dr. Y.C. James Yen), PRRM has become one of the biggest and most significant nongovernmental development organizations in the country.

PRRM started out as a small organization of volunteers—young college graduates who were paid token allowances. It has since grown into a professional organization staffed by highly trained and experienced experts. In addition, it counts as members more than 600 civic-minded individuals, organized into 18 chapters throughout the country. These members include professionals, academicians, businessmen, government personnel, and local government officials. Their role: to support PRRM's advocacy and field programs in their respective provinces, cities, and municipalities, and to initiate their own local development programs and advocacy campaigns.

PRRM's field programs span 17 provinces—from Ifugao in the north to Cotabato in the south—where its "sustainable area development" and "sustainable rural district development" models are being tested and refined. More than 600 communities benefit from these programs, implemented in partnership with organizations of farmers, fishers, women, and the youth.

Vision and mission. PRRM has described its vision as a society of empowered communities with full citizen entitlements, where women and men have control over their lives and share equally in the benefits of development taking place within the carrying capacity of the environment. In pursuit of this vision, PRRM laid out the mission and tasks it had set for itself—to strengthen the capacity of local communities in self-government, in management of habitats, and in influencing public policy.

Basic strategy. People empowerment is the most important component of PRRM's strategy for sustainable development. People are, after all, the most important resource of any community, and are themselves the beneficiaries of development. Only by putting the management of development processes into people's hands can any program address the people's specific development needs.

PRRM applies its strategy of people empowerment at two levels of action: (1) at the community or ground level, through sustainable community and habitat development programs; and (2) at the local, national, and global level, through policy reforms.

Ignorance, disease, poverty, and powerlessness are the chief problems that keep communities from being able to sustain themselves. Thus, PRRM developed a fourfold approach to rural development: education (to counter ignorance), health (to protect against diseases), livelihood (to help people out of poverty), and self-governance (to get people to manage their own communities' development).

PRRM's ground intervention strategy is complemented by its deep involvement in shaping public policy at higher levels. Such a strategy takes into account the impact of official policies—usually made from distant centers—on households, neighborhoods, local communities, and their living spaces.

Contributions and innovations. In its 50 years of existence, PRRM has made many contributions to sustained rural economic development, beyond infrastructure and social-service assistance. Foremost among these contributions is mobilizing rural reconstruction workers (RRWs) and organizing village men, women, and youth into Rural Reconstruction Men's Associations (RRMAs), Rural Reconstruction Women's Associations (RRWAs), and Rural Reconstruction Youth Associations (RRYAs).

Through its experiments in self-governance in a few villages, PRRM demonstrated that Filipino villagers could intelligently and judiciously select their own village officials, and did not have to just accept those that their municipal officials imposed on them—which was the prevailing system of local governance in the country until the mid-1950s. PRRM's successful experiments prompted the Congress of the Philippines to enact two laws that led to the establishment and strengthening of elective village councils throughout the country. Today's Barangay Council can truly be claimed by PRRM as its contribution to the blossoming of Philippine grassroots.

In the wake of the EDSA People Power Revolt of 1986, PRRM pushed the concept of active and meaningful civil-society participation in national and local development efforts. "Development in the hands of the people" became both slogan and goal; and "sustainable area development," which added the aspects of environment and habitat to PRRM's original fourfold approach, became its main strategy. PRRM was also responsible for popularizing the "triadic paradigm," in which authentic development is the product of collaboration among civil society, the state, and the market—that is, citizens and their associations, government, and the business sector.

The next 50 years. PRRM has come a long way since its founding in 1952. Yet the challenges that it faced at that time have not changed much over the years. Given this reality, PRRM's role in the next 50 years of its corporate existence is expected to become more crucial in the nation's development.

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Photos (counter-clockwise from below): [1] PRRM irrigation project in Negros; [2] PRRM turn-over ceremony, February 16, 1999: Horacio Morales Jr., president, 1986-1998; Helena Benitez, PRRM chair; Wigberto Tañada, PRRM president, 1999-present; and Vicente Jayme, PRRM Vice Chair; [3] PRRM engages local communities in a dynamic process of improving citizen access to justice, creation of livelihoods, restoring community cohesion, and promoting solidarity across communities.

building rural capacities for sustainability

agenda for the next 50 years

The Philippines has come a long way in 50 years. So has the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM). While PRRM has enjoyed many successes through the years, it has yet to see the total fulfillment of its dream.

Many of the problems plaguing the country when PRRM was founded have remained virtually the same. Of course, these problems need to be understood in a different context, given today's fast-paced and high-tech world. Yesterday's solutions may not apply to the same problems in the 21st century's global environment. Thus, the country's problems today call for a somewhat different set of actions.

As its 50th anniversary approached, PRRM engaged in a Strategic Planning Process that would set its agenda for the next 50 years. It reviewed its history to learn lessons from the past and scanned the current environment through a series of "Dialogues on Development Scenarios," where it listened to, discussed, and analyzed the expert prognosis of economists, environmentalists, scientists, sociologists, political analysts, cultural leaders, and others, on what the Philippines is going to be like over the next 15-50 years. And when it looked into the future, it saw that its goal of putting development in the hands of the people through a sustainable area development strategy could best be achieved by continuing its focus on local development efforts.

PRRM's philosophy underlying its rural reconstruction formula remains essentially the same: the key to sustainable development is the effective participation by, and cooperation among, the local people, the local government unit, and the local business sector in the tremendous task of local development. But the Movement has recast the formulation of its vision, mission, and guiding principles to meet the needs of the times.

Vision for the next 50 years. PRRM envisions a world of equity and sustainability. The future is one where society is free of ignorance, poverty, disease and powerlessness; and development takes place within the environment's carrying capacity.

New mission. To enhance the capacity of rural communities in the planning, advocacy and implementation of sustainable development, through an integrated program of education, livelihood, health, habitat, environment and self-governance.

Values. In pursuit of this mission, PRRM is guided by a key set of values: justice and equity, unity and peace, nationalism, people's participation and community empowerment, volunteerism and *bayanihan*, caring for the environment, family focus, and celebrating our culture.

These are the values that PRRM believes in and stands for. They will guide the Movement not only in developing and implementing its programs and projects, but also in its day-to-day work and in the way its staff relates with one another and with others.

Priorities. Foremost among PRRM's priorities is to organize and strengthen a network of Provincial Rural Reconstruction Movements (ProRRMs) throughout the country, building them around and upon the PRRM chapter and the federation of PRRM's partner people's organizations (POs) in each province, as well as other local civil society organizations (CSOs) that share PRRM's philosophy and principles of development.

PRRM will also build up the Conrado Benitez Institute for Sustainability (CBIS) to serve as the main training, research, and technical assistance arm of the Movement. The CBIS will have a faculty drawn from among PRRM's board of trustees, staff, chapter members, and partner people's organizations, as well as from other training institutes, NGOs, and POs. In other words, the CBIS will operate as a "community of knowledge," rather than as a single, isolated institution. This is to ensure that it is able to draw from the widest possible source of "best practices" in sustainable development for sharing through its training and publications programs. It will also operate within a framework of lifelong learning.

As it has been in the forefront of innovation, PRRM shall continue to develop, implement, document, and draw lessons from innovative field projects that test or validate new approaches to sustainable development, and share these lessons with the ProRRMs and other development groups through the CBIS.

The Movement shall also expand and strengthen its advocacy program, at both the national and global levels, in support of policies, strategies, and programs that promote good governance and sustainable development. Among the issues that PRRM will continue to advocate are those related to environment and sustainable development, economic development, social development, and the rights of women, children and youth, and governance and citizen's participation.

Challenges. The next 50 years open new challenges for PRRM. With 50 years of experience tucked under its belt and armed with renewed vigor, PRRM shall move on to help build better lives for Filipinos in the countryside.

Core features of the PRRM approach

Development in the hands of the people

Development, if it is to be meaningful, should benefit the majority of the people. In a country like the Philippines, development should take place where it counts most: the rural areas. This the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM) recognizes. To ensure that its rural reconstruction efforts are sustained, PRRM capitalizes on the countryside's most important resource: the people themselves.

Philosophy. People empowerment for sustained economic and social growth is the philosophy underlying any program that PRRM undertakes. Only by empowering people, only by putting development in the hands of the people, can a country sustain any development effort, even after investments have stopped flowing in.

At the same time, administering programs purely at the local level may be inadequate without the support of state policy and legislation. Micro-level development cannot be sustained without a supportive climate at the macro level. Thus, PRRM also advocates and actively works for reforms in public policy. In ensuring that the reforms are carried out, local communities still play a pivotal role.

Strategies. Originally, PRRM followed a four-pronged approach to rural reconstruction based on the above concepts. Recently, the approach has been expanded into five. PRRM's strategies today cover: (1) social development; (2) economic development; (3) environmental protection and natural resource management; (4) governance; and (5) institutional development.

The following are the core features of this expanded PRRM approach:

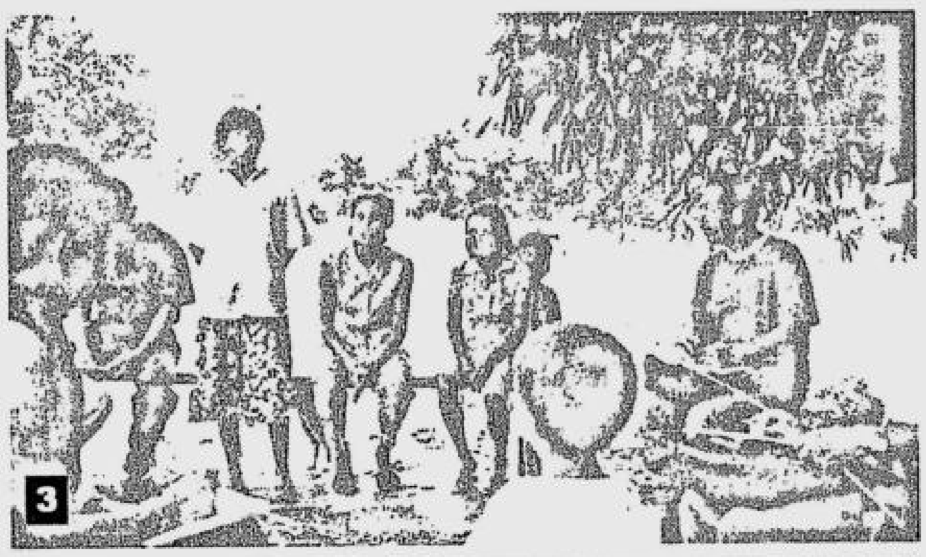
Rootedness in the community. Since its founding, PRRM has immersed itself in the process of building community and habitat. Its branches and local chapters have worked in thousands of communities and have been involved in building community organizations and all sorts of local voluntary associations. This rootedness in local communities firmly grounds PRRM's inputs into public policy dialogues and debates, and enhances its participation in national and global processes.

Cultivation of active citizenship. Long before the terms *people's organization* and *community-based organizations* gained currency, PRRM was already organizing village men, women, and youth into rural associations. Today it continues to build capacities of local communities to engage in a dynamic process of improving citizen access to justice, creating livelihood, restoring community cohesion, promoting solidarity across communities, and protecting the environment. Through the years, PRRM has seen its people's organizations emerge as significant actors in their respective communities and sectors, with the capacity to respond to a variety of social, ecological, and governance issues and to actively participate in shaping development policy and making strategic interventions in the decision-making process.

Demonstration of alternative models of development. In the field, PRRM is engaged in the demonstration of sustainable area development models in diverse geographic areas, ecosystems, economies, and sociocultural milieus. PRRM continually develops, implements, documents, and draws lessons from innovative field projects that test and validate new approaches to sustainable development.

Reform of public policy. PRRM complements its field programs with policy advocacy. It has taken the leadership in a number of areas, including protection of the rights of small fishers; opposition to the onerous provisions of the GATT-WTO Agreement on Agriculture (AoA); promotion of fair trade; support for progressive local governance policies; abolition of child labor; promotion of new and renewable energy sources; and opposition to destructive mining practices. PRRM continually strengthens its deep-rooted support for issues related to the environment, economic development, citizens' participation, and the rights of women, children, and youth.

Convergence for voluntary action. PRRM draws strength from the spirit of volunteerism of civic-minded professionals who pool their knowledge, skills, and energies to help uplift the quality of life of the rural people. The Movement continues to attract talented and idealistic individuals across generations and mobilize them to voluntarily work for the sustainable development of the Philippines.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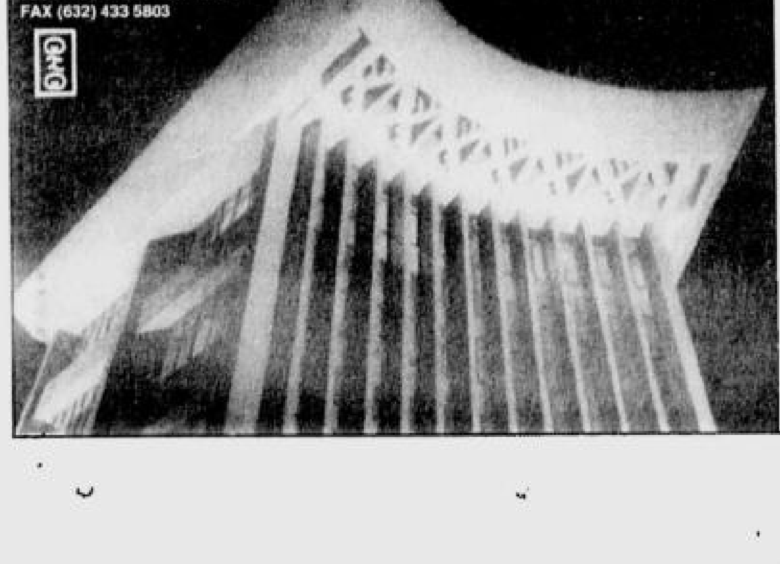
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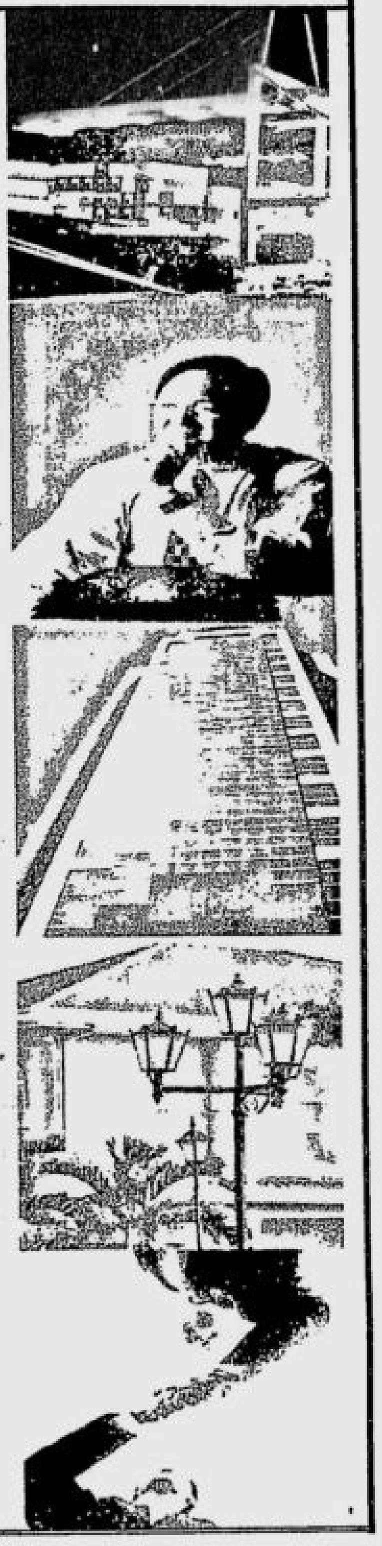

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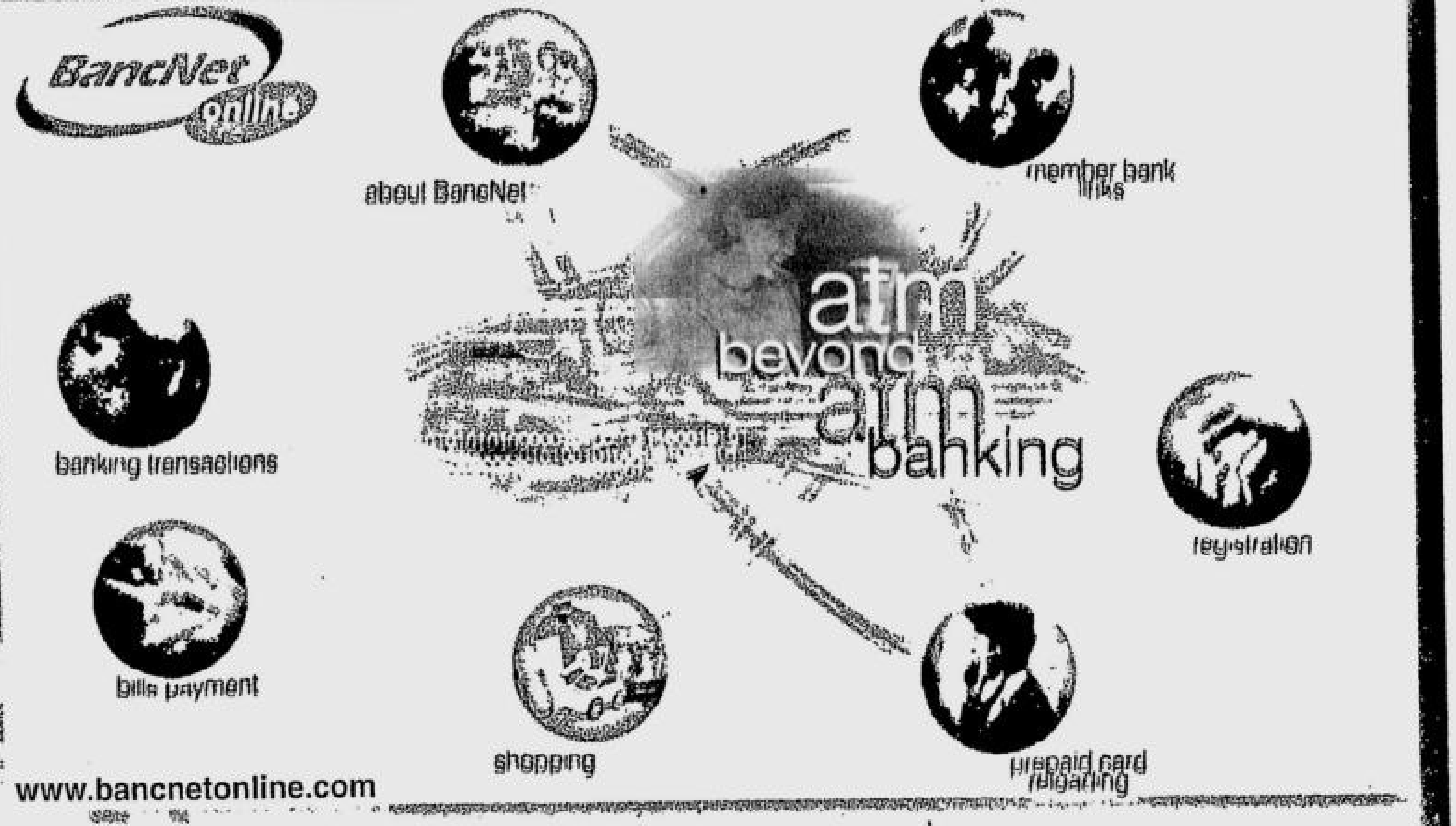
On its 12th anniversary BancNet goes Online



www.bancnetonline.com

BancNet, the country's largest ATM network, launches BancNet Online today in celebration of its 12th anniversary. The $1-million investment in a multi-channel payment gateway (MCPG) facility is the first among ATM networks in the country.

Last year, BancNet pioneered in the introduction of the InterBank Fund Transfer (IBFT) where cardholders can move funds from one account to another maintained in a member bank. The IBFT is just one of the many products and services that BancNet has to offer.

BancNet's main thrust with the BancNet Online project is to provide the reliable and secure delivery of financial and related services for member institutions, affiliates and customers here and abroad through the synergy of resources and the best utilization of technology.

> This project was conceived to bring ultimate convenience to our customers

BancNet President Ricardo R. Chua, believes that the launching of BacNet Online will be a major milestone for the ATM consortium this year. "This project was conceived to bring ultimate convenience to our customers. I have no doubt that this project will strengthen BancNet's leadership in the business" Chua confidently states.

For his part, BancNet Chairman Mr. Angelito M. Villanueva sees BancNet Online as a convergence of existing products and services on top of new options to ATM cardholders. Mr. Villanueva adds that the new facility was borne "out of a combination of BancNet's best practices."

www.bancnetonline.com

BancNet cardholders with access to the Internet need only to log on to www.bancnetonline.com to be able to access the site.. Once inside, the user is treated to easy-to-navigate transactional screens.

Fujitsu Philippines, Inc. (FPI) was tapped as a partner to integrate and implement the BancNet MCPG. Using BancNet's existing ATM/POS switch and network security infrastructure, Fujitsu customized BancNet Online with the ability to consolidate and act as a one-stop Internet payment gateway built on a stable and scalable platform for future expansion and requirements.

"FPI has always come up with technology solutions with very good value for money, continuosly adopting new solutions to cope with the evolving IT needs," comments BancNet SVP and COO, Aristeo P. Zafra, Jr. "With the successful implementation of our MCPG, FPI continues to gain reputation as a leading system integrator with world-class support for its customers."

BancNet made sure its payment gateway conforms strictly to the banking industry standards and security requirements. A multi-layered security architecture features 128-bit encryption hardware, firewall screening, and additional authentication methods. The site is certified by no less than Verisign, a leading provider of digital trust services worldwide.

BancNet's payment gateway shall accept financial transactions from initial devices such as the Internet and mobile phone, allowing consumers' and businesses' bank accounts to be debited and the receiving businesses' bank accounts to be credited according to the nature of transaction.

A BancNet portal simultaneous with the gateway enables customers to see a front-end application where they can conduct their payment transactions. Once a client intends to make a payment, the Internet Banking applications of each bank is ready to accept the payment, whether directly at their website or through BancNet.

Markets served

BancNet Online caters to all types of users. Consumers are given wider payment options that are available anytime, anywhere. Whether paying for goods purchased or recurring bills, clients now have another channel to use in order to effect the payment, equally secured and effective as the ATMs.

BancNet Online will enable businesses to authorize, process and manage debit and credit card transactions in a real-time, on-line environment. Businesses are enabled to promote e-commerce in the country and are given equal opportunities to be competitive in the electronic world. They will have the advantage to be connected to all BancNet member banks, thus looking forward to the banks' huge cardholder base of seven million debit and credit card holders as their potential buying market. They also achieve operational efficiency by dealing with the consortium as a single entity instead of transacting with individual banks.

For Member Banks, they can now securely capture and process payment transactions from consumers and businesses through BancNet Online. Through BancNet's arrangement with merchants and bills payment institutions, the member banks are able to acquire more partners in accepting payments from cardholders. The payment gateway therefore becomes a value-added service of the member banks to their clients.

Banking transactions and more

At the heart of BancNet Online is the basic service of banking transactions in a real-time environment. Most of the features found in the ATM have been replicated to BancNet Online, save for actual deposit and withdrawal of cash. BancNet Online users can check their balance, do funds transfers, and request for their statement of account or checkbook reorder and do bills payment. The same transactions can be done through the mobile banking feature of the payment gateway.

BancNet Online also has a virtual e-retailing infrastructure that allows shoppers and merchants access to product catalogues, shopping guides and auctions. It is a 24 hour by 7 day shopping network supported by an order-processing platform consisting of automated merchant notification, delivery and payment options such as ATM card or credit card. Even prepaid phone card reloads may be purchased from the site.

Beyond ATM Banking

With the rapid development of e-commerce, BancNet is keeping pace with the business opportunities and challenges that address the growing needs of the consumers. In the same path that the ATM took before gaining popularity and expanded usage, internet-based transactions loom as a borderless transactional channel for BancNet customers to benefit from the services being offered, albeit with added value more than that of traditional banking.

BancNet Online is an idea whose time has come. It augurs well for the country's leading ATM consortium to prove that it can come up with a transactional platform that spells ultimate convenience through a convergence of BancNet's proven reliability and performance over the last twelve years.

RICARDO R. CHUA
President, BancNet Inc.
"The infrastructure we are building today as well as the direction we are taking through BancNet Online clearly shows that BancNet will be a major player in the loop of the evolving e-business. Through these initiatives, we are certain that we will make a difference in the lives of our customers."

ANGELITO M. VILLANUEVA
Chairman, BancNet Inc.
"With the changing environment on e-commerce, BancNet would once again want to be the first to take advantage of the opportunities in this business and with the cooperation of our member banks, we certainly feel that we already have an edge over the other consortia in the market."

Standing (L-R): **Jose F. Santos,** Chairman; **Angelito M. Villanueva, Ricardo R. Chua, Francisco M. Caparros, Jr.** *Seated (L-R):* **Ma. Rodora E. Bañares; Juan G. Coreces,** Corporate Secretary

BANCNET BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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BancNet Mission Statement

BancNet will be the leading electronic network for the convenient, reliable, and secured delivery of financial and related services for member institutions, affiliates, and their customers locally and abroad through the synergy of resources and the best utilization of technology.

MILESTONES

1987 The idea of an ATM consortium is born as three senior bank officers namely Ramon C. Arceo, Jr.(PCIBank), Carlos A. Pedrosa (Metrobank) and Jose F. Santos (RCBC) decide to ool resources together to maximize results from their operations. Seven other banks were invited to join which laid the groundwork for the birth of an ATM consortium in the Philippines.

1990 BancNet, Inc. formally starts operations on July 17, 1990 with eight (8) member banks in Allied Banking Corporation, China Banking Corporation, Citytrust, Interbank, Metropolitan Banking Corporation, PCI Bank, Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation and Security Banking Corporation. By October 1990, Citibank N.A. joins the network followed by Philbank in December 1991 bringing the total number of member banks to ten.

1993 BancNet introduces Bills Payment, paving the way for cardholders to pay bills for utilities, cable TV, telecommunication companies, insurance and even make donations to various charities through the ATMs.

1994 BancNet offers its Point-of-Sale facility which allows credit card authorization and debit card purchases. BancNet cardholders can now shop, do grocery, buy medicine, and gas up in accredited merchants using their BancNet ATM cards. BancNet interconnects with other ATM network Megalink.

1997 BancNet becomes an Internet service provider, offering lower rates to its member banks.

1999 The Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) facility is introduced, automating company-to-company exchange of data. Electronic transmission of monthly social security contributions becomes its first and most popular application.

2001 BancNet pioneers in offering InterBank Fund Transfer through the ATM in the Philippines.

2002 BancNet launches its multi-channel payment gateway in BancNet Online, a first among ATM networks.

BancNet
InterBank
Fund Tran

BancNet Forum to discuss convergence issues

BANCNET, the country's leading electronic network for financial services, is holding its 2002 Executive Forum today at 1:30 p.m. at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium at the RCBC Plaza in Makati City. The afternoon event will focus on the theme of "Ultimate Convenience . . . Beyond Convergence" to capture the evolving trends in electronic banking in both the local and global fronts. Three guest speakers have been invited to share their learning and proficiencies on the topic from different perspectives.

To give the "Consumer Insights on Electronic Banking" is noted marketing research practitioner and professor of International Marketing at the Asian Institute of Management Dr. Ned Roberto. Dr. Roberto's talk will surface how clients perceive the delivery of banking services through channels like the automated teller machine (ATM) and the Internet.

ABLAZA

Mr. Gerardo Ablaza Jr., President and CEO of Globe Telecom will bring out the "Opportunities and Challenges for Banks and Telcos." There is an increasing synergy between banks and telecommunications companies with the launching of different mobile banking services where Globe Telecom is an active partner.

Through his talk on "Electronic Payments: The NETS Experience," Mr. Wee Tew Lim gives a global perspective based on best practices of the Network for Electronic Transfers Singapore (NETS) of which he is the Chief Executive Officer. NETS is a multi-service organization, providing a comprehensive range of electronic payment and trade finance services. It has since successfully marketed its CashCard technology to the Philippines, South Korea and Thailand. Last year, NETS processed about 100 million CashCard transactions and 88 million EFT/POS (point-of-sale) transactions.

The event also features the launching of BancNet Online, BancNet's multi-channel payment gateway project. BancNet Online is the ATM network's answer to provide its customers with a new and convenient access to financial services over a convergence of increasingly popular electronic channels.

WEE TEW LIM

Noted TV host and Director of ABS-CBN Business hosts and moderates the program. The BancNet Executive Forum is an anniversary event sponsored by BancNet and is exclusive to its member banks' senior officers and invited guests. No registration fee is required.

The afternoon event will focus on the theme of 'Ultimate Convenience . . . Beyond Convergence'

Making SSS Payments Easy through BancNet's EDI

BANCNET has continuously provided enhancements and innovations to its basic ATM services. Realizing the need for a faster, more efficient and secure mode of company-to-company exchange of data, it started offering the Electronic Data Interchange System or EDI in the early part of 1999. The electronic transmission of SSS contributions was the first EDI application to be implemented.

The BancNet EDI System (BES) is a browser-based application with an AMTRIX Messaging engine running in a Unix platform. Primary users are the Social Security System, its depository banks in the Development Bank of the Philippines and the Land Bank of the Philippines and employers who are clients of BancNet Member Banks. The system was designed initially to complement the SSSNet Project of the Social Security System.

The BES-SSSNet basically covers the electronic submission by an employer to the SSS of the Monthly Contribution List (MCL) file, and the corresponding Payment Order message to the employer's depository bank. A copy of the Payment Order message is also sent to SSS' depository bank.

The SSS, upon receipt of the MCL file will validate it. If there are errors, the SSS will send a Monthly Contribution Acknowledgment message informing the Employer that there is an error in the MCL file sent. The Employer then corrects and re-sends the MCL file.

From its modest pilot implementation of 8 employers and 2 depository banks, BancNet's EDI client database has increased to over 550 employer clients and 10 depository banks and is still steadily expanding.

Several reasons have been attributed to this rapid growth. BancNet's efficient delivery of EDI transactions to and from BancNet, the SSS and the depository banks through its web-based application have resulted in the immediate posting of employees' monthly SSS contributions. All this is achieved with no front-end costs for employers since no subscription fee, maintenance charges, and other expenses are imposed.

Member banks are now getting ready to bring in more of their corporate clients into the system with the advent of BancNet's thrust to implement the program over the Internet. This scheme should further boost its client base as employers from far-flung regions can access the system without entailing long distance telephone charges as long as they have a local ISP connection. RCBC recently piloted the integration of BancNet EDI / SSSNet system with its Enterprise Banking solutions.

Employer companies wanting to avail themselves of this free service may contact BancNet SVP Aris Zafra or Operations Manager Rene Natividad at telephone numbers 894-5954 or 818-3264.

Member banks are now getting ready to bring in more of their corporate clients into the system with the advent of BancNet's thrust to implement the program over the Internet

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*Approved by DTI-NCR
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1217 Series of 2002

Shop without cash in Cebu

THERE is a new and easy way to shop and do business in Cebu. BancNet's Point-of-Sale (POS) is now in Cebu!

Last June 29, BancNet launched the Point-of-Sale System or POS in Cebu expanding the options for Cebuanos to do convenient and cashless transactions.

Cashless shopping without the extra charges.

Who said cashless and convenient shopping is only for credit card holders? BancNet cardholders can now shop in stores with the POS facility with the convenience that any credit card can offer.

Like the credit cardholder, those who have a BancNet ATM card can now make a purchase without having to pay cash. With a POS transaction, the purchased amount is simply debited from the card holder's account at no extra charge. But with a BancNet ATM card, one does not have to worry about those multiple payments and finance charges that come with the use of a credit card.

Expanding the market with POS

BancNet's POS now also offers Cebuano establishments a new payment facility to expand their customer base. Department stores, supermarkets and other commercial establishments can now accommodate those who are not credit card holders but are BancNet ATM card holders.

With 32 of the country's largest banks as BancNet members and over six million BancNet card holders and 2000 ATMs, the POS facility can certainly help tap this sizeable market potential.

But there is more to the POS than attracting new customers. The facility can also enhance store operations. For stores with BancNet's POS, problems with cash shortages are reduced. Moreover, the POS facility provides daily reports of its transactions which can help in the consolidation of the day's sales.

BancNet's POS is now available at the Metro Gaisano Department Store and Supermarket at the Ayala Center Cebu, the Robinson's Department Store and Supermarket in Lahug, at SM Department Store, R Abenson Appliance Center, Savemore Supermarket in Mactan, Surplus Shop, and at Watsons FDS and H&B outlets. Soon, the BancNet ATM card can also be used at SM Supermarket and Toy Kingdom.

BancNet chairman Angelito M. Villanueva is confident about the success of the POS system in Cebu. "Our initial numbers indicate a growing acceptance of the system in Cebu and we are confident that this trend will continue since our member banks have very strong customer-service values. They will always look for ways and means to provide more value and service for their ATM card clients."

With the new Cebu installations, BancNet now has a total of around 50 accredited merchants with 200 commercial sites and 2,100 POS terminals for its card holders to "shop without cash and with all the convenience" through the BancNet Point-of-Sale System.

BancNet requires no additional investment from its member banks to acquire the POS system. Branches can now offer their clients with an additional facility through their ATM card and at the same time earn commission for each debit card transaction.

The POS facility was launched in Cebu at the Waterfront Hotel and was attended by some 120 bank managers and branch representatives in Cebu. During the one-day seminar, BancNet officers also reintroduced BancNet's growing products and services focusing on the operational and marketing aspects of these.

> Like the credit cardholder, those who have a BancNet ATM card can now make a purchase without having to pay cash

BancNet Member Banks

1st e-Bank
Allied Banking Corporation
(founding member)
Asia United Bank
Banco Filipino Savings and Mortgage Bank
Bangko Kredito
Bank of Commerce
Bank of the Philippine Islands
(founding member; holds Citytrust shares)
Centennial Savings Bank
China Banking Corporation
(founding member)
Chinatrust Commercial Bank
Citibank N.A.
Citystate Savings Bank
East West Bank
Equitable-PCI Bank *(founding member)*
Export and Industry Bank
Global Bank
Malayan Savings Bank
Manila Banking Corporation
Merchants Bank
Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.
(founding member)
Orient Bank *(currently inactive)*
Orion Savings Bank
Philippine Bank of Communication
Philippine Savings Bank
Philtrust Bank
Planters Development Bank
RCBC Savings Bank
Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation
(founding member)
Security Banking Corporation
(founding member)
Standard Chartered Bank
Union Bank of the Philippines
((founding member; holds Interbank shares)
United Overseas Bank of the Philippines

SALUTING THE BEST IN THE FILIPINO

The Galing Pilipino Movement (GPM), a private sector-led movement initiative promoting what is good and excellent in Filipinos, was recently launched at the Manila Polo Club in Makati City. Present during the event were (seated, from left) Donald Lim, classifieds and marketing head of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Johnip Cua, president of Procter & Gamble Philippines, GPM founding president Erlinda de Guzman, three-time Olympian and TV personality Akiko Thompson, and Mitos Camahort, president of Image Dimensions. Also shown were selected guests from print, TV and radio. GPM encourages Filipinos to achieve more and become outstanding members of society. For inquiries, call 843-7206, e-mail staff@galingpilipino.com, or log on to www.galingpilipino.com.

CANON-JI PHOTO WORKSHOP

The Canon-Junior Inquirer Summer Photography Workshop recently held its culminating activity. 65 participants attended the activity at the Play Area of Kids at Work, SM Megamall. The workshop was conducted by professional photographers Vic Sison, Jim Garin and Ibarra Deri of the Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation Inc. Representatives of partner sponsors such as Donald Patrick Lim of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Ana May del Rosario of Kids At Work, Claret Lopez and Vince Da Silva of Henlin, Gail Riofrio of Nestle Chocolate Milk Drink, and Raul Peralta of Kameraworld also acted as judges for the activity. President of Super East Asia Enterprises Inc. William S. Sia presented the plaques of appreciation to partner sponsors. Afterwards, Conchita Sy, Seaei VP for administration and Robensin Ong Lo, Seaei sales manager, awarded the certificates of completion to participants.

DIABLO NIGHTS

It was a night of 'lust' at Mustang Bar in Makati as Allied Domecq launched its hottest spirit, Diablo. The first of Diablo's Seven Deadly Sins bar tour left audiences lusting for more of this remarkably smooth-tasting drink. Watch out for Diablo and his delectable minions as they offer more temptations in the most happening bars in the Metro. Sloth in Dreambar happened July 12, Wrath in 78Orange on July 17, Gluttony in Dish July 26, Avarice in Gwellos on Aug. 9, Envy in Acqvario on Aug. 16, and Pride to cap off the tour with a grand finish at Wherelse on Aug. 30.

BITS & Clips

Change in retail management

ANCHORED on the theme of "Leading Change in Retail Management", the 7th annual presentation of Supermarket Show and Shop Asia 2002 will be held July 17 to 20 at the World Trade Center, Metro Manila. The exhibits will feature celebrity guests and industry VIPs for its opening to be followed by a series of brand promotion activities and raffles. For the next few days, learning sessions on evolving trends in supermarket and retailing management are scheduled. Top retailers and supermarket executives will convene with top suppliers of food and beverage and F&B equipment, wines and spirits, consumer soft goods, display items, servicing tools and accessories, shop fittings, and retailing solutions. The event is sponsored by Home Radio 97.9. Interested parties can call ExpoTrade at 895-5735, 895-2392, fax 890-7531.

Haribon, Shangri-La Plaza Mall exhibit

IN CELEBRATION of its 30th anniversary, the Haribon Foundation for the Conservation of Natural Resources and the Shangri-La Plaza Mall holds the Biodiversity Exhibit at the Main Atrium of the Shangri-La Plaza Mall until today, July 17. Among the highlights are a forest show featuring Neil Oshima's photos, a video on the Philippine Eagle species, interactive digital stations about the environment as well as a coloring corner for children. There will also be a cocoon-shaped tent where visitors can actually have a feel of the forest, right smack in the center of the mall. The exhibit is made possible through the contributions of the Royal Netherlands Embassy and Apple Computer Inc., Philips Consumer Electronics, DWNU 107, BPI Foundation, Equitable PCIBank and Cravings. Call Harib [illegible] 920-7430, 436-4363 and 433-3476, or log on to www.haribon.org.ph.

Bayanihan spirit in Kaingin

THE nationwide "National June Build", a Gawad Kalinga program of Couples for Christ and partly funded by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, went into full swing recently when it constructed 20 houses for the poor of Kaingin, located just outside the walls of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Paranaque City. The weekend activity was participated in by hundreds of volunteers from various sectors and the Kaingin community itself via "bayanihan". A telethon was also held over the ANC Channel. Gawad Kalinga is a program of the CLC under the Ancop Foundation. For donations, call Dar Lopez at 821-0815 or Jinky Nievera at 825-5496.

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MEMBER PDIC

Promo runs from April 29 to July 29 2002
Per DTI-NCR Permit # 1590 Series of 2002

Investors snap up $7-B Thai bond issue

BANGKOK—Investors snapped up over half of Thailand's largest savings bond issue on the first day of the 305-billion baht ($7.5-billion) offering, reports said Tuesday.

The issue, launched on Monday, is aimed at helping the central Bank of Thailand finance the mountain of debt it incurred by bailing firms out of the 1997-1998 Asian financial crisis.

Investors from across the country rushed to buy 156.8 billion baht in bonds offered by the BoT in some 4,267 banks across the country, The Nation newspaper reported.

The central bank said it originally hoped to sell out the bond issue by the end of August.

"All of the savings bonds are likely to be sold out much earlier than expected considering today's reservation figure," the BoT's official in charge of bonds, Vorathep Vithayaviroj, told the newspaper.

The bonds carry terms of five, seven and 10 years, with coupon rates of 4.15, 5.25 and 6.10 percent, respectively.

The issue is part of a broader plan to finance the 1.4 trillion baht in debt incurred by the BoT's Financial Institutions Development Fund for bailouts of 56 finance companies, the Business Day newspaper said. *AFP*

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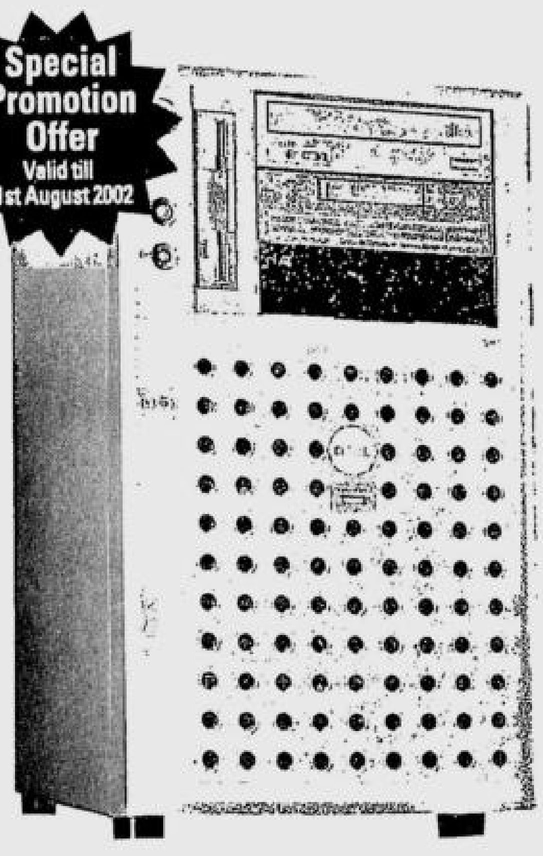

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SWEEPING REFORM

US Senate approves corporate accounting bill

WASHINGTON—In a 97-0 vote on Monday, the US Senate passed a sweeping reform bill designed to make corporate leaders more accountable after a series of financial scandals that undermined confidence in the US economy.

The tough new legislation would set up an independent oversight board that would impose standards, carry out inspections and mete out punishments to accounting firms found to be flouting the rules.

Senators were spurred to pass the legislation in an unusual show of unanimity after a series of catastrophic billion-dollar corporate and accounting scandals drained money from thousands of investors and sent leading US companies crashing into the ground.

The bill was authored by Sen. Paul Sarbanes, a Democrat, in the wake of energy giant Enron Corp.'s spectacular collapse and was fast-tracked after WorldCom's $3.9-billion profit restatement in late June.

It now heads to a conference committee with the House of Representatives, which passed a rival bill by a vote of 334-90 on April 24.

The Sarbanes bill specifically prohibits accounting firms from offering financial consulting services and internal audit work to corporate clients.

The House bill, meanwhile, bars accounting firms from offering certain consulting services to the companies they audit but falls short of calling for an outright split of accounting and consulting services.

"I am pleased the Senate has now acted on a tough bill that shares my goals and includes all of the accounting and criminal reforms I proposed," said President George W. Bush, who earlier Monday sought to restore confidence in the US economy during a speech to small business owners in Birmingham, Alabama.

Bush urged Congress to work out the differences in the two bills before the legislature's August recess, stressing: "We owe it to America's workers and shareholders to crack down on wrongdoing and fix the system to prevent future abuses."

House Speaker Dennis Hastert said the bicameral meetings could start as early as Tuesday.

"This is all about the economy," Democrat Tom Carper said on the Senate floor earlier Monday. "One of the reasons why it's so important for us to pass this legislation is to send a clear signal to investors around the world that the United States is a good place in which to invest."

Sen. Phil Gramm, a Republican who voted for the bill although he opposed several provisions and amendments seeking tougher standards for firms, expressed confidence that the perceived flaws in the Senate bill could be ironed out in meetings with the House.

"Our objective, it seems to me, is to fix what is broken with American capital markets and do it while minimizing the costs imposed on American businesses and workers," Gramm said.

The Senate bill includes Bush's proposal that chief executives and chief financial officers be required to certify the veracity of their company's earnings statements and annual reports.

Executives would be forced to surrender any profits and bonuses they receive in the 12 months after an earnings or company report is filed if it resulted in an earnings restatement.

Company officials convicted of defrauding investors would also face a maximum 10-year prison sentence.

Efforts to attach provisions regarding stock options, which represented a large chunk of many CEOs' pay, were thwarted by senators, who warned that treating stock options as business expenses would produce even bleaker profit and tax statements from firms.

"We're making sure that executives who commit improper acts will forfeit phony profits. And we're saying that if you have defrauded investors, you can never serve as a CEO or on the board of directors of a company again," Bush declared in his Alabama speech. *AFP*

Bank of Japan leaves policy unchanged

TOKYO—The Bank of Japan said Tuesday it would keep monetary policy unchanged following a two-day policy board meeting.

The central bank decided unanimously to maintain the level of liquidity in the financial system by leaving unchanged the level of targeted reserves in its current account around 10 trillion to 15 trillion yen ($86 billion to $129 billion).

"Should there be a risk of financial market instability, such as a surge in liquidity demand, the bank will provide more liquidity irrespective of the guideline above," the central bank said in a statement identical to that released after recent board meetings. *AFP*

S. Korean CB chief confident about economy

SEOUL—South Korea's central bank chief on Tuesday voiced confidence in the country's economy as financial regulators struggled to contain the fallout from a string of corporate scandals in the United States.

Bank of Korea Governor Park Seung said South Korea's economic fundamentals were strong enough to weather the shock of US financial turmoil.

"Our economy has no major problems as it has restored its financial system, improved corporate fundamentals and refurbished its forex reserves," he said.

A series of corporate and accounting scandals in the US would have a short-term impact on South Korea's economy, he said.

The governor called on South Korean firms to take the won's rising value against the US dollar as a vehicle to improve their competitiveness, saying the won's appreciation would spur an influx of foreign funds.

South Korea has raised the level of corporate governance through sweeping reforms in its financial systems since it was hit by the Asian financial crisis in late 1997. *AFP*

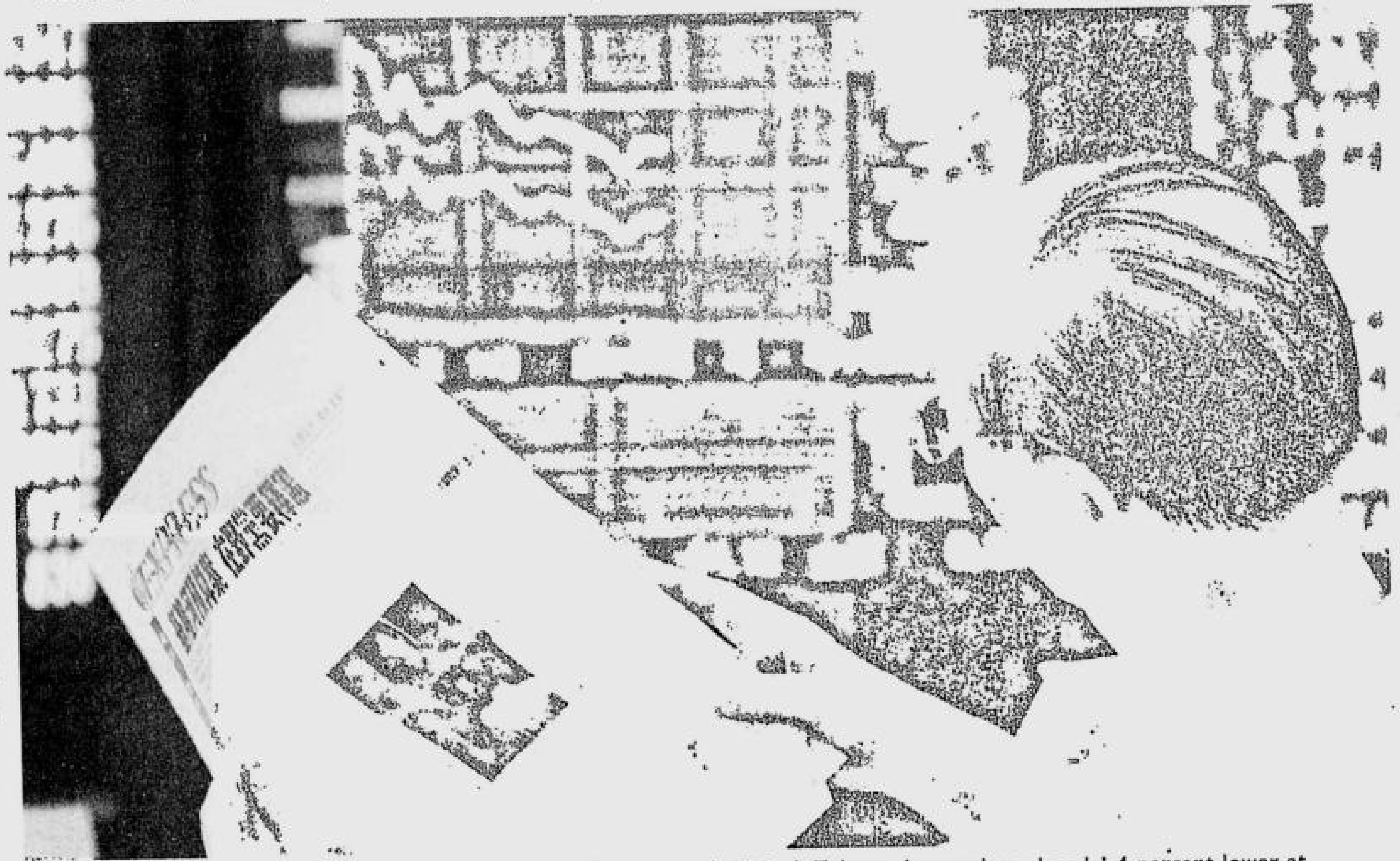
Argentina pays $550M in debt, wins IMF delay

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina—Argentina overcame a major hurdle on Monday, paying $550 million in non-deferrable debt to the Inter-American Development Bank, sparing itself from defaulting on a multilateral loan that would have triggered the suspension of upcoming disbursements.

Making that payment and winning a one-year delay on $985 million due the IMF this week—the largest combined sum due to Washington-based multilaterals before September—means Argentina continues to qualify for IADB and World Bank aid.

In the next six weeks, the IADB and World Bank are to pay out $446 million, or about P1.6 billion, in previously approved funds for social programs and fiscal balancing that are not conditional on a new aid deal with the IMF, Economy Minister Roberto Lavagna told reporters.

Of that amount, the World Bank should announce on Tuesday that $150 million would be paid out, while the IADB should announce the remaining $296 million in the coming month and a half, Lavagna added. *Reuters*



A LOCAL investor reads the newspaper at a local stockbrokerage in Taipei. Taiwan share prices closed 1.4 percent lower at 5,318.01 in light trade on late profit-taking in bellwether electronics, wiping early gains triggered by a sharp upswing by Wall Street. AFP

Bush says economy strong despite turmoil

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush on Monday sought to restore confidence in the US economy, describing it as strong despite the turmoil that has sent financial markets reeling.

"For us to have the security we all want, America must get rid of the hangover that we have had as a result of the binge, the economic binge we just went through," he said in a speech to small business owners on the University of Alabama campus here.

Bush appeared to lay some of the blame of the current unrest in markets and the economy on the excesses of the 1990s.

"We were in a land of endless profit. There was no tomorrow when it came to the stock markets and corporate profits," he said. "Now, we're suffering a hangover for that binge."

Revelations of a string of accounting misstatements at some of the United States' top companies, which began last December with the spectacular collapse of energy trader Enron Corp. and had since stretched across all sectors of the US economy, contributed to the spectacular decline of US markets.

Meanwhile, stocks resumed their slide, as the Dow industrials rebounded from a loss of more than 400 points but nonetheless ended down 47.49 points, or 0.55 percent, to 8,637.04.

The Dow ended last week down by more than 600 points, its lowest level since immediately after the Sept. 11 terror attacks, while the Nasdaq and the Standard and Poor's 500 were off to levels unseen in five years.

Democratic National Committee chair Terry McAuliffe slammed Bush on Monday for having his economic priorities "out of whack."

McAuliffe said to solve the current "crisis of confidence," the president "should be in Washington, calling on Republicans to support real corporate reform legislation, not out on the road breaking more fund-raising records."

Still, the president, who later was to attend a fund-raising luncheon expected to raise $4 million for conservative gubernatorial candidate Bob Riley, insisted the economy was "fundamentally strong."

Bush dubbed the 6-percent growth rate in US productivity for the first quarter of 2002 a "pretty good sign that the foundations for growth are there" within the US economy.

He said Congress could help boost the economy by granting him trade promotion authority and by making his $1.35-trillion tax cut permanent.

PRESIDENT George W. Bush looks up while speaking about the economy during a visit to the University of Alabama. REUTERS

"I believe when you cut taxes, it spurs economic growth," he said. "If we let you have your own money, you'll decide to spend it on a good and service."

Further onus was placed on corporate America to act responsibly and "treat investors, shareholders and employees with the respect they deserve."

If corporate directors and executives do not, said Bush, "we intend to do something about it at the federal level."

Bush himself is being scrutinized for a 12-year-old transaction involving stock in the now-defunct Harken Energy Corp., where he was a director in the early 1990s.

Meanwhile, White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer earlier said Bush would stand behind embattled Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Harvey Pitt despite the widening corporate crisis.

"Everybody knows it; they've heard the president say it," he said in response to a question about whether the repeated requests for Pitt to resign were clouding the administration's corporate responsibility message.

"Why would you expect a change? There is none," Fleischer added. *AFP*

Manufacturers cheer dollar drop to parity

NEW YORK—The US dollar, which slumped to parity with Europe's single currency on Monday, is moving in the right direction but still needs to weaken further against what the National Association of Manufacturers considers a still-undervalued euro.

"The euro got very, very undervalued. It's moving toward some semblance of reasonable value, but it's got ways to go," said Frank Vargo, vice president for international economic affairs at the Washington DC trade group.

The dollar rose steadily during the economic boom of the late 1990s but started falling sharply in recent months as stock market losses and Wall Street accounting scandals battered investor confidence.

The NAM has long argued that an over-valued dollar is hurting US exporters, repeatedly lobbying the Bush administration to take steps to rein in dollar strength.

Vargo said the dollar's recent declines—it has fallen more than 10 percent against both the euro and the yen this year—was starting to have a positive effect on US firms.

"This will have an almost immediate effect on profit margins for companies that have European operations, and it should help the stock market," he added.

For now, Vargo said, the Bush administration has done enough for the dollar by making clear that the market should set the foreign exchange rate and talking down the likelihood of central bank intervention. "That removed the floor that was under the dollar," he said.

Vargo did not want to name an ideal target for euro/dollar but added that "some people have said $1.10 is right for the euro." He declined to express a view on dollar-yen rate. *Reuters*

US business inventories show first rise

WASHINGTON—US business inventories increased unexpectedly in May as sales slumped, notching their first rise in 16 months and raising hopes a long-awaited restocking of shelves would help boost the economy.

Inventories at retailers, manufacturers and wholesalers rose 0.2 percent in May after dropping 0.2 percent a month earlier, the Commerce Department said Monday. It was the first inventory rise since a matching 0.2-percent gain in January 2001.

"It looks like the massive liquidation of inventories that has plagued the economy for a year and a half, almost two years, is winding down," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Economy.com.

The surprise increase—Wall Street had been looking for a 0.1-percent drop—came as sales slid 0.4 percent after a strong 1.7-percent gain in April. With sales off and stocks up, the inventories-to-sales ratio—a measure of how many months it would take to sell off inventories at the current sales pace—ticked up to 1.36 in May from 1.35 in April.

As the economy braked sharply and fell into recession last year, businesses found themselves with unwanted goods on their shelves and their efforts to cut stocks deepened the downturn. *Reuters*

A WOMAN walks in front of an electronic share price billboard in downtown Tokyo. Japanese share prices gained 0.2 percent in morning trading with the Nikkei-225 average of the Tokyo Stock Exchange, ending the early session up 23.75 points at 10,398.90.

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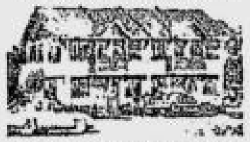

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DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on 31 July 2002 at 2:00 p.m. at the Auditorium of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
REAL ESTATE			
METRO MANILA			
LTY-152	38 Road 7, Project 6, Quezon City	403.7 m² residential lot (TCT No. N-234441) with building	P 6,788,300.00
LTY-143	2072 Anonas Street, Sta. Mesa, Manila	300.2 m² residential lot (TCT No. 245737)	P 3,602,400.00
MED-58	No. 4 Olive Street, SSS Village, Concepcion, Marikina City	242 m² residential lot (TCT No. 316365) with buildings and improvements	P 773,800.00
BATANGAS			
2LAO-08	Bo. Munting Tubig, Ibaan	19,238 m² two (2) agri lots (TCT Nos. T-111242 and T-111243) with piggery buildings and improvements	P 6,457,800.00
2LAO-06	Brgy. Pinagkawitan, Lipa City	738 m² two (2) residential lots (TCT No. T-133022 and T-132774) with buildings and improvements	P 5,607,200.00
2LAO-05	Along 3.0 meters road - right-of-way at Poblacion 3, Nasugbu	3,827 m² interior residential lot (TCT No. T-88931)	P 3,827,000.00
BULACAN			
MED-123	No. 402, Bo. Tangos, Baliwag	240 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-128269) with building and improvements	P 371,100.00
CAVITE			
MMC-93a	Along Provincial Road, Bo. Sinaliw, Malaki, Alfonso	768 m² residential lot (TCT No. 369067)	P 340,200.00
RIZAL			
MGT-121	Jasmine Street, Nieves Hills, Lakeview Subdivision, San Isidro, Angono	248 m² residential lot (TCT No. 616234)	P 347,200.00
CHATTELS (Sale on "as-is, where-is" basis)			
LTY-148	Dalaruan, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro	M/V "Super 85", an 85-footer motorized passenger ferry vessel, twin engine, Catamaran type, capable of carrying up to 185 persons with machinery and navigational equipment.	P 20,221,200.00
MBL-165	Back of Manila Film Center, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City	One (1) non-propelled deck-loading barge (partly submerged), all steel welded construction. Gross Tonnage of 3,097 tons.	P 7,574,000.00
LRD 140a-i	Pinatubo Bricks Manufacturing, Bgy. Estrada, Capas, Tarlac	Various brick making machinery and equipment (in dismantled condition)	P 6,900.00 to P126,900.00 per unit
2LAO 07a-k	Brgy. Pinagkawitan, Lipa City	Various chattels for veterinary products manufacturing	P 21,800.00 to P427,500.00 per unit

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers:
892-3836 or 818-9511 loc. 2128 for Code starting with L;
815-1450 or 818-9511 loc. 2139 for Code starting with M; and
818-9511 loc. 1429 for Code starting with 2LAO.

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI -- July 17 & 18, 2002)

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June 24, 2002

INVITATION FOR QUALIFICATION/ ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

The Bid and Award Committee of the Province of Iloilo hereby invites Contractors who are duly accredited by the National Power Corporation (NAPOCOR); and are classified by and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as **Medium A**; for *Electrical Works Specialties (High Voltage Lines and Substation Equipment Installation)*, to apply for qualification/eligibility, and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Substation Equipment, Transmission Lines; and related Sub-station Civil Works for the New Iloilo Provincial Capitol at Iloilo City.

Qualification/Accreditation statements are available for issuance to interested Contractors at the PBAC Secretariat, Provincial Planning and Development Office, Home Technology Building, Iloilo National High School, Luna Street, La Paz, Iloilo City on **July 16 to 17, 2002**, upon presentation of a Letter of Intent addressed to and received by the Office of Governor Niel D. Tupas. Submission of qualification/accreditation documents will be on **July 26, 2002** only.

Plans and bidding documents are available at the Provincial Engineer's Office, Multi-purpose Covered Gym, Magsaysay Village, La Paz, Iloilo City for issuance to qualified Contractors on **August 9, 2002** only, upon payment of the amount of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00), which is non-refundable.

The BAC shall hold pre-bid conference on **August 16, 2002** at 2:00 p.m. at the SP Session Hall of the Old Provincial Capitol at Iloilo City.

Sealed bids shall be received by the BAC on **August 23, 2002** from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the SP Session Hall of the Old Provincial Capitol at Iloilo City, which will be publicly opened at 2:15 p.m. of the same date.

The Provincial Government of Iloilo reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality in such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Iloilo Provincial Government.

(Sgd.) **NIEL D. TUPAS**
Governor

(PDI - July 3, 10 & 17, 2002)

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Message of Thanks

We, the Family of

JESUS K. TYPOCO, SR.

who joined our Creator on June 29, 2002

sincerely express our profound gratitude to all relatives and friends who attended the wake and funeral, visited & kept vigil, sent flowers & donations, offered mass cards & prayers, supplied physical & spiritual nourishment, provided words of sympathy & comfort, and otherwise immeasurably lent their time, talent & treasure in easing our sorrow.

We deeply appreciate your expressions of kindness in our hour of bereavement, and share with you a message of *Hope, Faith* and *Happiness* in our beloved's passing & rebirth in our Lord Jesus.

May we all continue to be instruments of God's love,
Thank you so much!

Cesario P. Calanoc

Born February 25, 1907

Died in the Grace of our Lord on June 11, 2002 in Los Angeles, California and was buried in San Fernando Mission Cemetery and Mausoleum, Mission Hills, California.

His beloved wife **Nenita**; children and in-laws **Norma & Pepito** (†), **Corazon & Eddie** (†), **Baby, Nenuca & Michael, Pocholo & Rita, Marimil & Lito, Jun & Melinda** and all his stepchildren and grandchildren wish to announce that there will be a Mass on July 20, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Martin de Porres Church, United Hills Village Parañaque. Officiating Priest is Fr. Roy Evangelista to commemorate the 40th day of his return to our Creator.

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Manila Memorial Park Sucat Crematory
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Atty. Roberto "Berting" Posadas

Peacefully joined his Creator on July 14, 2002 at the age of 86.

His loving wife **Paz Rivera-Posadas**; children **Marilou** and **Francis, Atty. Monet** and **Baby, Ching** and **Gat, Cory** and **Winston, Pinky** and **Leo, Atty. Vic** and **Dra. Bing, Terry** and **Jess, Anthony** and **Jovic, Jet** and **Rita**; grandchildren, great-grandchildren, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, 143 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

On Saturday, July 20, 2002 at 12:00 noon, his remains will be transferred to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine, Doña Juana Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment shall take place at La Loma Catholic Cemetery on Sunday, July 21, 2002 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

> "Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."
>
> 2 Corinthians 5:4-5

TOLOMEO L. SANTIAGO

Peacefully joined our Creator on July 13, 2002 at the age of 79.

His remains lie in state at #36 C. Santos St., Ugong, Pasig City.

Interment will be on July 20, 2002 at the Pasig Catholic Cemetery after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

PRAXEDES F. PASICOLAN

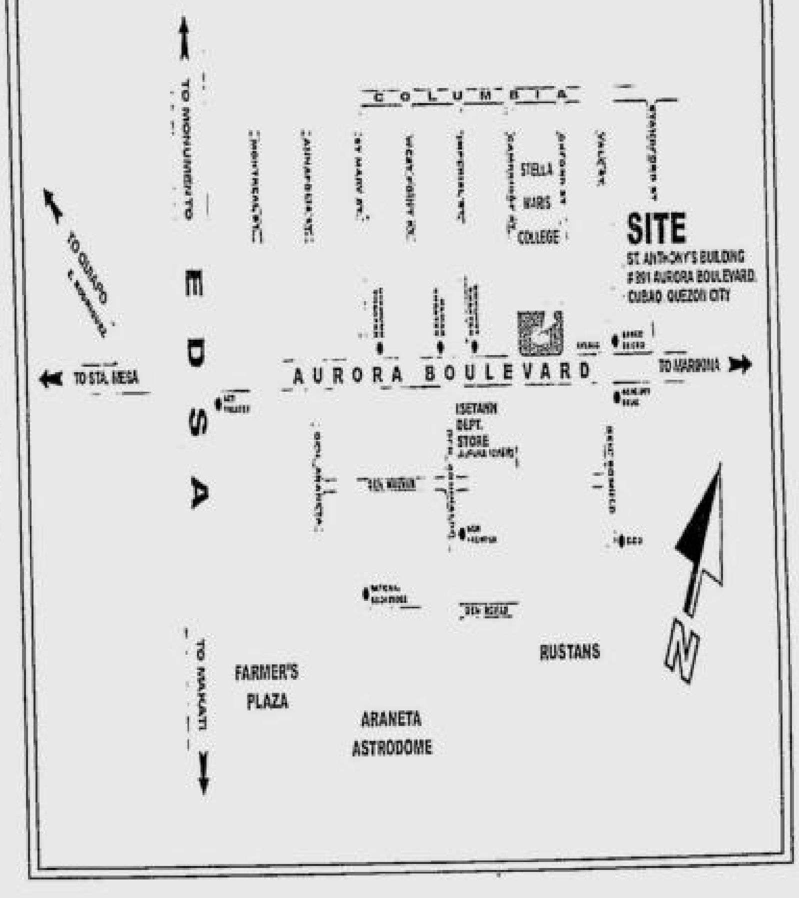
(Centro Escolar University Alumna and former Faculty Member)

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on July 15, 2002 at the age of 96.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Q.C.

Interment will be on July 20, 2002 at the North Cemetery, Manila.

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS
Aurora branch is now open to serve your Classified Ads requirements. For inquiries, please call **912-9008** to **11**.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER
(NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven. Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity. Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine

Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen

(This prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your

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National Power Corporation
SMALL POWER UTILITIES GROUP

INVITATION TO BID

SPUG-MMSS-02-0012

Interested suppliers are invited to submit sealed bids to be opened publicly at the National Power Corporation, Small Power Utilities Group, 2nd Flr. Training Center Bldg., BIR Road Cor. Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

INQUIRY NO.	DESCRIPTION	OPENING DATE	TIME
PB020731-PDAC1168	PARTS FOR DAIHATSU 12DK	PREBID. 7/22 OPENING. 7/31	02.00PM
PB020731-PDAM1169	PARTS FOR TURBOCHARGER OF MGE	JULY 31, 2002	10 00 AM
PB011210-PDEM0841 (PB2)	PARTS FOR MAN ENGINE	JULY 29, 2002	10 00 AM
PB020118-PDEM0885 (PB2)	PARTS FOR ALFA-LAVAL	JULY 29, 2002	02.00 PM

Bidding documents will be available to qualified interested parties starting JULY 19, 2002 upon payment of P 100.00 per schedule, which is non-refundable and upon presentation of company I.D., and company authorization. Issuance and receipts of documents are done every morning between 8:00 to 11:30 AM only at the above address.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT SERVICES SECTION
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION
PSD-SPUG

(PDI July 17, 2002)

email: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph

PEOPLE at WORK

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ◎ Subsection Editor Regina Galang Reyes

BREAKFAST CHAT

Newly elected officials can learn from author on leading with honor

BLAINE LEE

By Ricky B. Garcia

(THE COUNTRY has just elected a new set of barangay and youth officials, leaders at the grassroots level, with not a few citizens hoping that with these new leaders, order can perhaps be instituted. With the US Ambassador just yesterday castigating the Philippines on corruption, the need for role models and processes for honorable leadersship has been brought once again to the public arena. But how then can leaders in government, business and other sectors lead with honor?

Last Monday's People at Work segment on Studio 23's Breakfast featured Dr. Blaine Lee, vice president and senior consultant of Franklin Covey and the author of the international bestseller, "The Power Principle" who talked on "Leading with Honor." The interview was conducted by "Breakfast" host Ria Tanjuatco Trillo and Inquirer Corporate Relations head Celine Madamba.— PaW Ed)

Celine: What are the characteristics of honorable leadership? What are some warning signs of dishonorable leadership?

Blaine: An honorable leader will be distinguished by their effects. As Jesus said 2,000 years ago, by their fruits ye shall know them. When the honorable leader has done his work, the people will say, we did it ourselves. Bad leaders make you feel bad about yourself; good or honorable leaders make you feel good about them. They don't merely direct your efforts, or even share their own treasures; they help you discover your own.

When I ask audiences, as I have done for 20 years all over the world, teaching 50,000 to 100,000 people per year, who made a positive significant difference in their lives, they describe honorable leaders. These leaders may not be famous, in fact often they are not, but they are patient, they demonstrate integrity, they have no hidden agendas, they use discipline (remember the root word is disciple), they show unconditional acceptance, humility, teachableless, they allow themselves to be influenced (that, by the way, is the real key to having influence with others), they go where people are, they are gentle in the areas where people have been hurt, are wounded or are developing, they explain why. This is a list which I have heard from tens of thousands of executives over the years as I have taught. The list is remarkably consistent, as are the people who live this way.

Celine: Why do you think there are so few good leaders around?

Blaine: I think there are more good leaders than not, but the bad leaders, the corrupt leaders, the noisy leaders make the headlines. I am glad that such leaders are newsworthy, because that means they are still the exception. Leadership is not easy; it requires credibility, risk-taking, patience, decisiveness, courage, character and humility. It is easier to let someone else worry about results, outcomes, change and improvement. But I am encouraged that I see young people today interested in taking charge, taking action, making a difference. I think the future of leadership is good, and I am optimistic, especially for leadership and the future here in the Philippines.

Ria: What does it mean for a leader to be effective?

Blaine: To be effective means to function in such a way today so that next time there is greater trust, greater loyalty, greater competency and greater skill. To be effective means to solve problems in a way that does not create greater problems next time. To be effective means to focus on the person as well as the problem, the issue as well as the relationship. To be effective means to focus on doing the right things, more than on doing things right.

Ria: What do you think is the most crucial role of a leader in an organization today?

Blaine: The most crucial role of a leader today I believe is trustworthiness, which is a combination of character and competence. I agree with retired US Army General Norman Schwarzkopf, who conducted Desert Storm. He told me that there were two keys to his lifetime military successes, which he characterized as character and strategy. And then he emphasized that if he could only have one, he would take character, because you can always come up with a good strategy.

Ria: When dealing with turf wars, difficult employess, staff conflict and political pressures, what do you do to reinforce ethics and strengthen your leadership?

Blaine: The best way is to create win/win agreements with each employee, and have them create them with each other. A good win/win agreement is a dialogue in which trust is invited by agreeing on the results to be achieved, guidelines for accomplishing the results, resources to be made available, accountability processes are identified, and the consequences of both performance and nonperformance are clarified. Then let the agreement, and the mutual agreements, monitor work.

When one of the elements is violated, get arbitration for mutual resolution, always with an eye toward next time. It requires two relatively independent parties to create a good win/win agreement; if one or both parties are emotionally dependent, they do not have the maturity to act responsibly and independently. Independence is an achievement and is not a function of age; a higher form of relationship is interdependence, which is a choice that can only be made by truly independent people.

Ria: Could you give any tips on leadership strategies that achieve and inspire?

Blaine: Get the right people on the bus; get them in the right seats; decide together where you want to go, and then spend personal time formulating your answers to these leadership questions, and give the answers to someone everyday: Why are we going there? How are we going to get there? Why should you follow me? Here is what it will cost you, and Here is the difference it will make, to you, to us, to all of us, to our families, to our communities, to this great nation, and to the world.

Books are a working mom's best friend

WORKING MOM

An Mercado Alcantara

I GAVE in completely to the fever this weekend. In a fury, I cleared out shelves, looked under tables and beds, pulled out from secret hiding places, and laid out all that I found so that I could organize them in some sensible way. From every nook and cranny, pulling out as if from a magician's top hat, I was surprised to find books, books, and more books. When my helper Lucille got into the act and began pulling out more of my books from her own secret places, she had resorted to boxing them up because she had no more shelves to put them in, I panicked. Load after load, she came in with more books.

How could this have happened? How could I have accumulated so many books? And how could I have allowed them to over-run my house?

As I organized them in piles on the floor, dusting each cover before looking for just the right shelf space and fellows for them, I realized they were all old friends. They had brought me on bedside vacations just when I needed to escape. Their voices comforted me when I couldn't see through my choices.

Their thoughts brought me on great dances, allowing me to kick in some joy, some thrill, and more balance into my life.

There is Peter Mayle's voice in A Year in Provence: "We had been here often before as tourists, desperate for our annual ration of two or three weeks of true heat and sharp light. Always when we left, with peeling noses and regret, we promised ourselves that we would one day live here."

There's Henri Nouwen's The Inner Voice of Love: "Every time you experience the pain of rejection, absence, or death, you are faced with a choice. You can become bitter and decide not to love again, or you can stand straight in your pain and let the soil on which you stand become richer and more able to give life to new seeds."

There's Isabel Allende's Paula: "Where are you wandering Paula? How will you be when you wake up? Will you be the same woman, or will we be like strangers and have to learn to know one another all over again? Will you have your memory, or will I need to sit patiently and relate the entire story of your 28 years and my 49?"

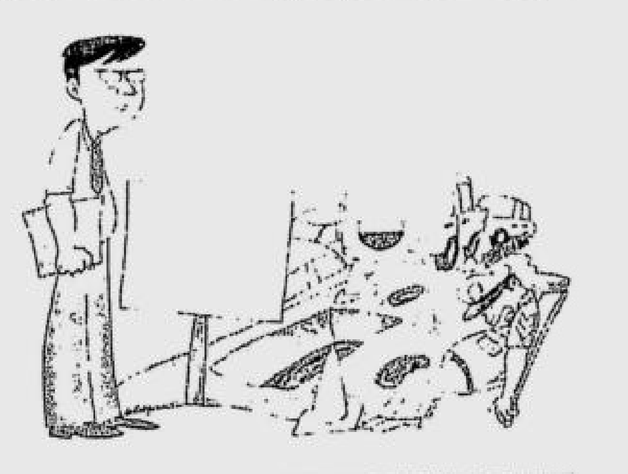
There's Katharine Graham's Personal History: [Nixon's resignation] created a huge stir in the newsroom. Howard Simmons said to staff members, ŒWe can't afford to gloat,' a sentiment that I shared. Though Watergate was no longer a lonely project for the post, we were proud of the part we had played, but it was now on its way to becoming a national tragedy, and we had no impulse to flaunt our role, though every reason to feel relief at vindication."

Voices, thoughts, inspiration from people I had never met, yet have touched my life so. Peter Mayle, lived out his dream to live in Provence he had the courage to do what we all wish we could, he turned a dream into reality. Henri Nouwen wrote his "secret journal" at a time in his life when he had lost all his self-esteem, his sense of being loved, he wrote to keep track of his thoughts, in the process what he produced inspires millions today. Latin American novelist, Isabel Allende's daughter fell into a coma, and for several months, Isabel sat by her side, writing to make sense of illness, death, and ultimately to affirm life. Katharine Graham, the woman who stirred the Washington Post through the crisis of the Watergate scandal, succeeded when women were not recognized as worthy leaders in the workplace and in the corridors of power.

Reading is my working mom's escape. It is what restores the balance when all around me gets to be overwhelming. I've given you a taste of only four. There are so many more books and certainly many more stories of inspiration, of wit, and of amazing courage in time of great pressure. Their stories are manuals for a working mom, they capture not so much the how-to or the step-by-steps of our juggling acts, but the spirit and fervor we need to live our lives to the fullest. Of course, as you might have guessed, I never got to the bottom of my pile and my de-clutter frenzy. But, I got out of the cabin fever, escaping into the route I know best, through the pages of my books, even amidst the clutter of my life and home.

(Send feedback to workingmom@pinoycentral.com)

'What can an ordinary citizen do to put the country in order?'



Advice

FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

By Tita Datu Puangco

I AM a 36-year-old employee working in Ortigas and an avid reader of your column. Every time I get my paycheck and see the deduction on taxes I feel resentful. Why? Because I don't see any return for my money. Public infrastructure is poor, traffic is terrible, pollution makes me sick. When I go on overtime and go home rather late, I am afraid, because I don't know if addicts or holduppers are in the same bus I ride. When I see a policeman, the more I am afraid. When I get home, I have to wait for midnight until water trickles into my house, so I can take a decent bath. Tell me, is this what life is all about?

When I look at government, I feel helpless. As ordinary employees and citizens, what can we do?

Disgruntled Citizen

What is important is to gain a balanced perspective and not lose hope. We have to recognize that side by side, while things are going wrong, many things are going right. The important thing is to recognize the areas where we have control or influence and to do our share. Or join forces with people who share the same ideals and together work for change.

When I talk of hope, I am not advocating a pacifist point of view where one simply takes the status quo with an air of passivity or indifference. But an active hope of one who is willing to participate. take risks and get involved.

Just like you, I dream of a perfect world. Infrastructure in tip top shape, peace and order and no violence in our streets, clean air to breathe and water available 24 hours, people who want to work have jobs, all children of age attend regular schooling. I dream of politicians who serve the common good and of an oligarchy with a strong love of country. I dream of an expanding middle class and a shrinking poor population.

Now as an ordinary citizen, can I bring this dream about? Yes, I can, but with no illusions that it will come tomorrow. First of all, through the power of the ballot. Campaign and vote for individuals who are competent and morally upright. But this is only the first step. The second and more difficult step is contributing to a working democracy by being vigilant, ensuring that the person you put into power takes seriously the mandate he/she has been given. Communicate your sentiments and thoughts in constructive collaboration. Do it in a culturally acceptable manner so people listen and respond, rather than turn off to what you have to say.

Then get involved in movements or non-governmental organizations that are doing their part to contribute and even serve as role models for government. We salute the Couples for Christ, the members of the Focolare Movement, NGOs like EVOLVE Filipinos. There are many other efforts that are growing to fill in the void or complement government efforts.

We also witness concrete accomplishments in local governments that have shown the exemplary way of responding to the needs of the citizenry. To name a few Marikina, Muntinlupa, San Fernando City in La Union.

As for the Church, their willingness to look at the problems of erring priests gives a good foundation for reform. I hope national government does the same for erring civil servants.

As for armed struggle, the only revolution I know that has succeeded, is the revolution of the gospel as summarized in the beatitudes and the Magnificat. History has shown us the futility of armed struggle. Kill off the bourgeoisie and after the revolution, a new one springs up. For the problem lies in man's heart, in greed and arrogance. What is needed is the conversion of people in power who can transform unjust structures. Also, the conversion of the rich who have to give to those who do not have through job creation or scholarships for poor children. So on top of everything, let us not underestimate the power of prayer. Only God knows the beginnings and endings and His time is always perfect. All of us in unity can make life in our country better, sooner than later. Take care.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail to ancillaedc@pacific.net.ph or fax to 892-2902.)

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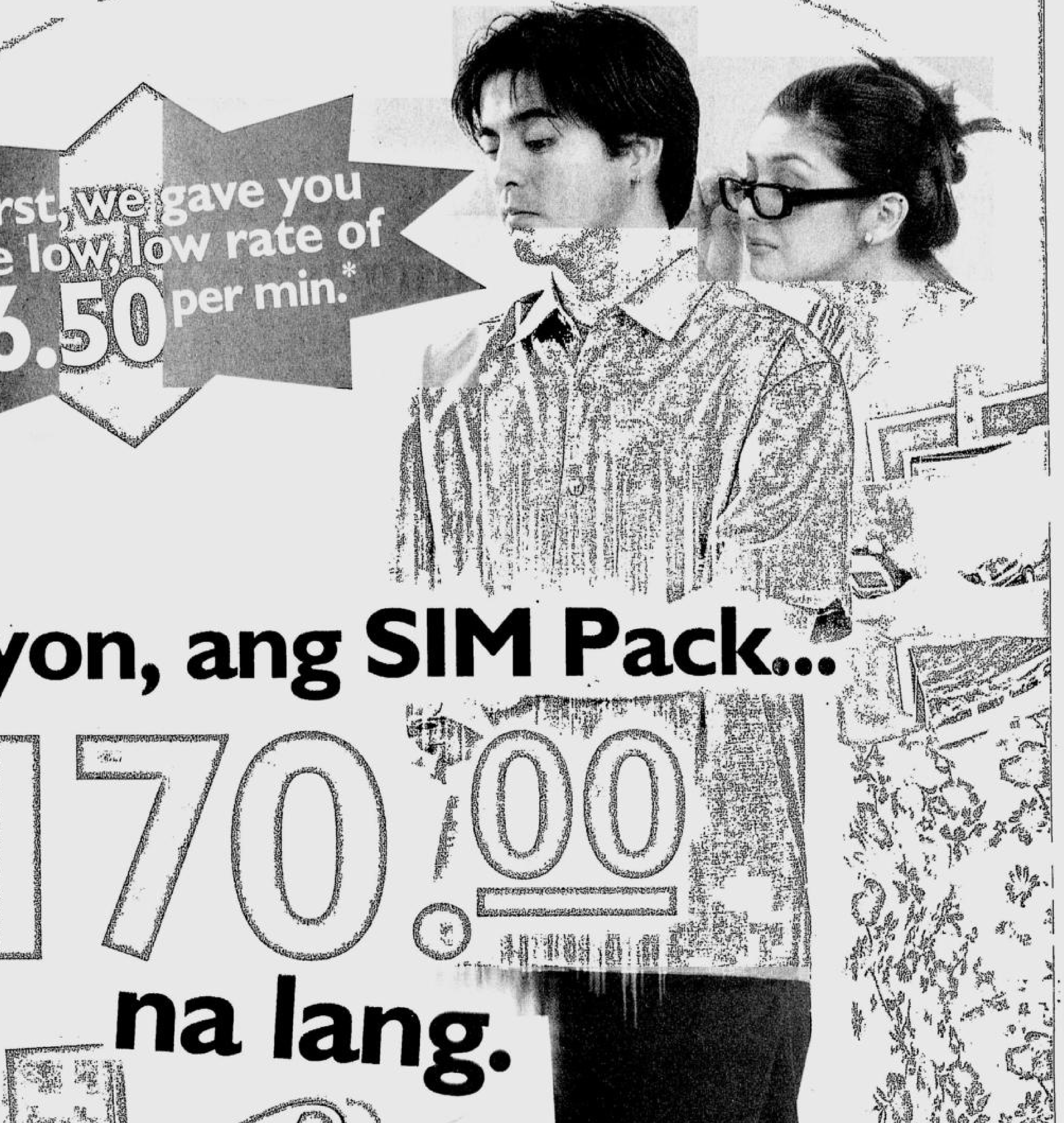

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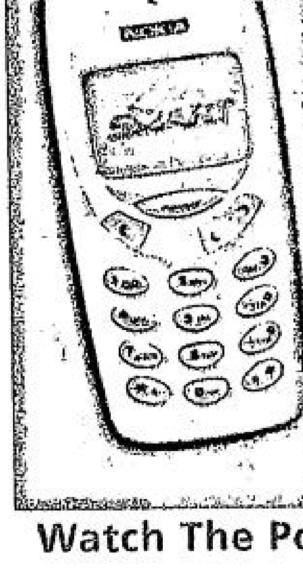

An afternoon with hard-ballers

By Cheryl Tiu and Tammy David
2bU! Correspondents

> Volleyball needs popular support, too

VOLLEYBALL was a really big thing—back in our all-girl high school. But when we met the De La Salle University Men's Volleyball team, our preconceived notions about male volleyball players being midgets and effeminate flew out the door.

Perhaps the only effeminate trait of the boys during the meeting was their timidity—as contrasted with the usual boisterousness of boys. They were very shy. "They're not usually like this," Nilo explains, as we aimed the video camera at them. "Believe me they're nothing like this off-camera! They're just not used to this."

They obviously weren't used to the attention, so we proceeded to ask them if they got the same treatment as the school's basketball team.

"Definitely not!" the team chorused.

But they don't resent it.

"We understand that this is a basketball country," Nilo said. "And we know that volleyball is no competition to that. But it would be nice to have more support."

Well, the team seems to be receiving more support ever since it won the UAAP volleyball championships (against UST, its biggest rival) last year. "That was the first championship ever for La Salle in 20 years!" team captain Hansel said. "*Napaiyak talaga ako.*"

We tried to perk the guys up by asking them our favorite slum-book questions. Who is the coach's pet? "AJ!" Hearthrob? "Pio!" Janley said. "A lot of girls text him but he doesn't know who they are." To add to that, Pio also has his own thread in Pinoy Exchange.

AJ said their "camaraderie on and off the court" held them together and kept them grounded. And they all agreed that the best part of being in the team was the team itself. "We have great bonding inside and outside the court, great friendships. We get to hang out at least once a week—go out, watch movies," Hansel said.

(TOP row, from left to right) Trishan Cuaso, Niko Manalo, Mike Soliman, Pio De Castro, AJ Mallari, Hansel Go (captain), Martin Libot, Janley Patrona (trainer), (center) Carlo Lazatin, (front row) Aifrel Dela Pena, Djyd Gonzales, Joseph Bato, Jasper Si, manager Nilo Pacheco and Adrian Uy PHOTOS BY TAMMY DAVID

To get ready for the court, the team practices everyday for three hours in the morning. They don't follow any strict diet, however. Before and after every game, the team never fails to perform one very important ritual: prayer.

But the team struggles against the stereotype that volleyball is a women's sport. "The stereotypical idea...is shallow because any sport can be played by any person," said Trishan. "Volleyball can be played by both women and men, just like basketball."

The team is hoping to win the championship again. But the best reward would be more support for volleyball players. And there we found our Hallmark moment of the afternoon.

We spent the rest of the afternoon hanging out with the guys, talking about our schools and sports, and watching the opening ceremonies of the UAAP on Studio 23. We realized that these guys were the epitome of that adage that sports is not always about winning, and definitely not always about the fame.

We almost forgot that these guys sitting around us were jocks. They seemed like regular guys who were out to play for fun. But the coolest irony of it all was that they had trophies on their shoulders.

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Going for 4-in-a-row

By Saleema Devi Refran
2bU! Correspondent

WINNING a competition is one thing but defending it for the third time is another. The UP Pep Squad knows this since it is set to defend its title in the Nestle Non-Stop Cheering Competition for the third time. Over the last years, the team has elevated itself to the top of the cheering circuit with its perfectly executed dance moves and jazzy uniforms.

The pressure is on the shoulders of this year's team captain Paula de la Llana as she tries to spearhead her team into another victory. 2bU! caught up with Paula a few hours before the opening of the UAAP to get the lowdown on UP's preparations for the cheering competition.

The team started training last summer. It is now training five days a week, from late afternoon to mid-evening. During breaks, members take turns in teaching the cheers to the PE classes. "It's very improbable that we'd be given the cup for a fourth time," Paula said. "You have to be sure that you're always on top of things, especially now that the other teams are getting much better than before."

The team choreographs it own moves and even designs its own uniforms. It takes guidance from the coach, Lalaine Pereña. "All of this is our coach's doing. Her goal was really to be innovative, to be different, to be unique," Paula says.

Asked what the public should expect from them this season, Paula smiled. "Every year it's getting increasingly harder to be creative because you've done certain stuff in the past. We're blessed in the sense that God would always give us new ideas and concepts to work with. Just expect something different," she said.

The buzz right now on campus is that the UP Pep is better than the team it is cheering for. Paula smiled and gave the basketball team credit for its success. "If not for the basketball team, we wouldn't be formed. One of our main purposes is to cheer for the basketball team and liven up the crowd for the team," she said.

Paula admitted that the competition is tough. "Every year it's totally a different concept. It's anybody's ball game. We have to be totally prepared," she said.

A member of the UP Pep Squad has to work as hard as a varsity player but doesn't have the same benefits. A member has to have dedication, Paula said. "You have to love to dance. You have to love what you're doing. You have to make a lot of sacrifices."

Members will also have to foster teamwork. "My dream for the team would be that we would be more united," Paula said. "This is all about teamwork."

Thanks to Lalaine Pereña, UP Pep Squad coach

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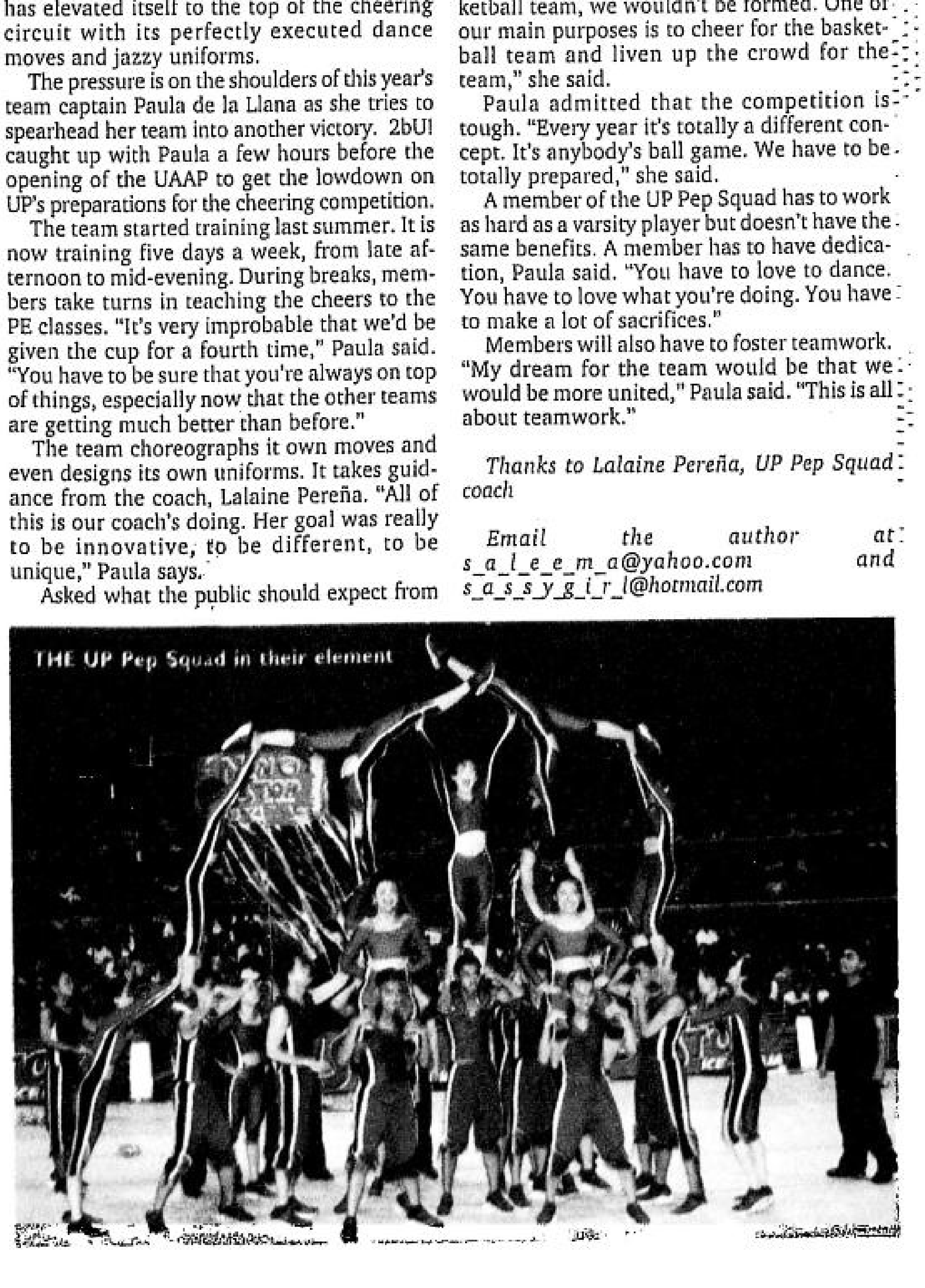

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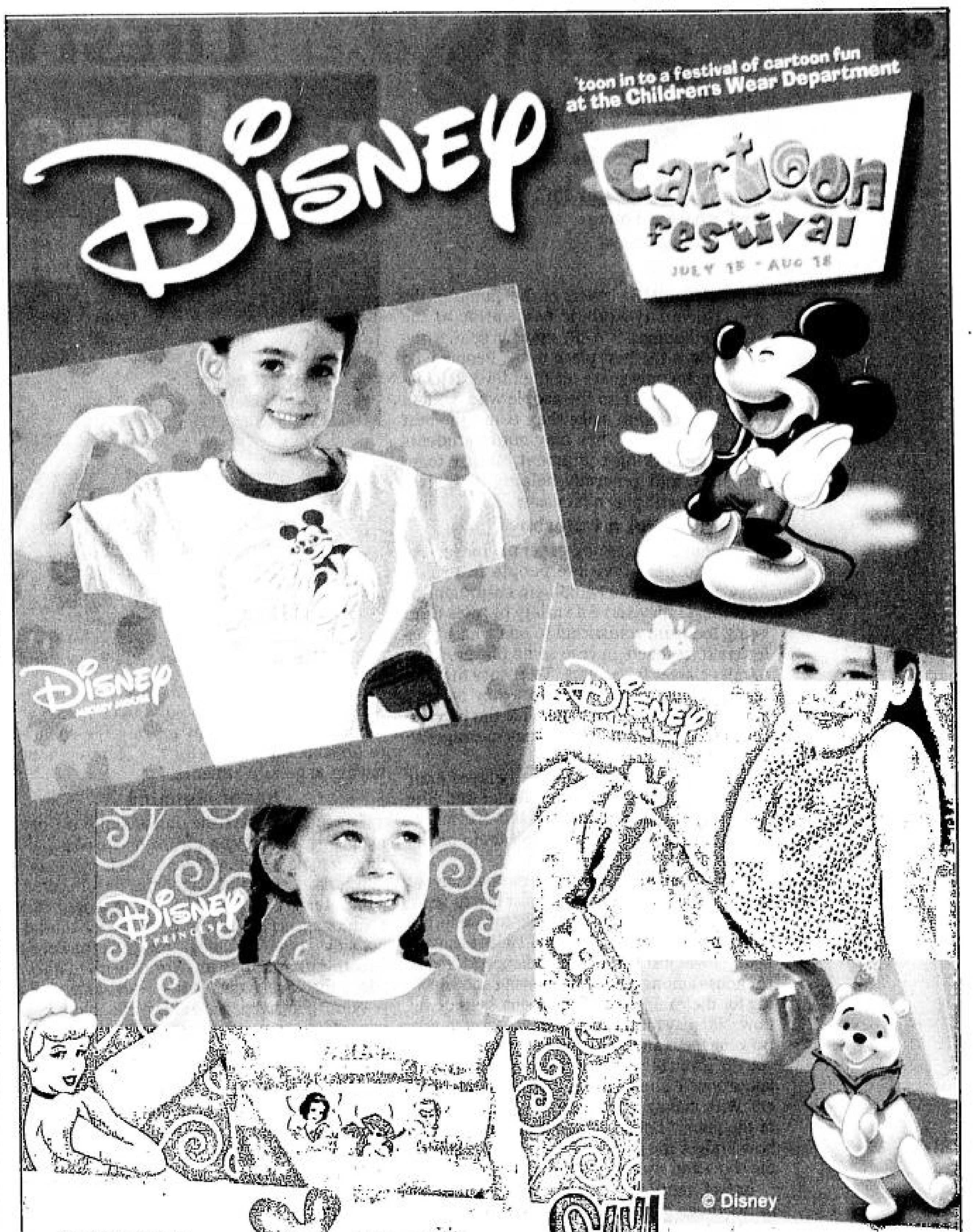
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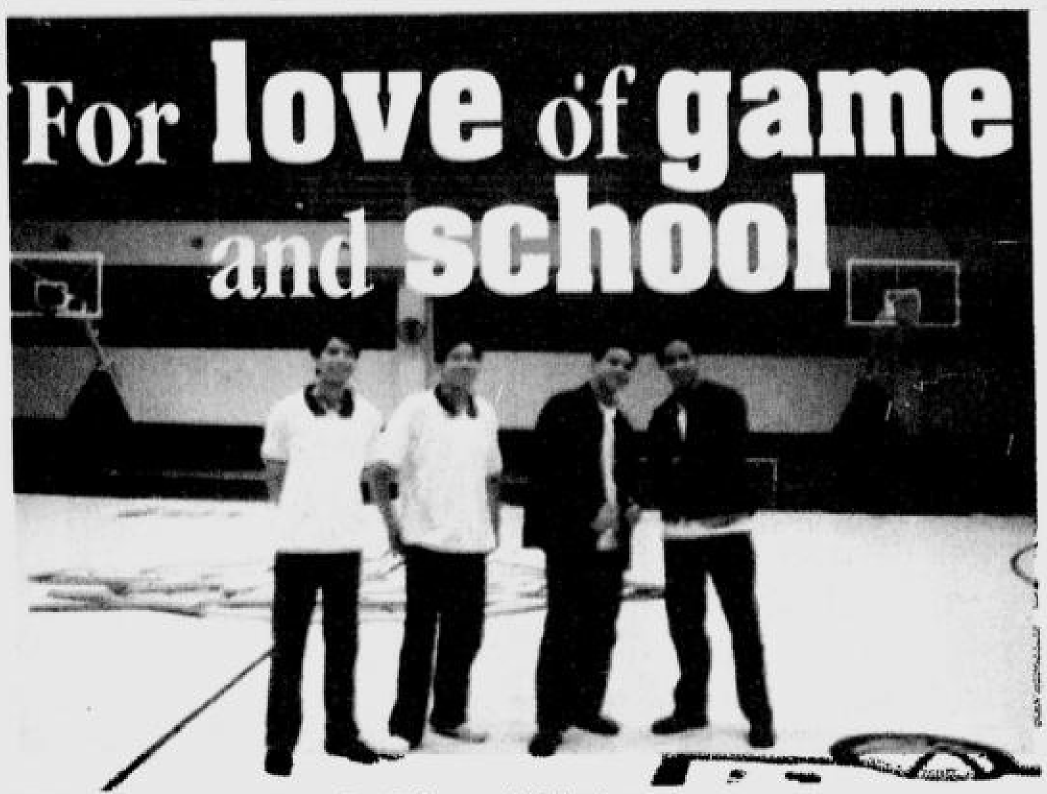
For love of game and school

Student team managers' dedication to their jobs and love of the game have made them unsung heroes

By Catherine Young
2bU! Correspondent



EMIL Javillonar, Jonas Cruz, Pat Pelayo and Didoy Lon

LONG-TIME viewers of the games of the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) may agree that the courtside is the best place to be. People who sit there not only get to see their favorite players up close, but also the people who work in the background to make their teams the best that they can be. They may notice students who are checking equipment, noting team statistics, and generally helping make two hours of hectic play a bit easier.

Not a waterboy

Student managers are generally the less famous and near-invisible people in teams. They are more than equipment custodians or waterboys; they serve a variety of roles from being the team statistician to one who writes letters to teachers in case some players have to miss classes for a game. To ensure that the team's needs are provided for, they have to attend practice everyday just like the players. During the game, they even relay messages to the players from parents.

Sebastian "Didoy" Lon, Pat Pelayo, Emir Javillonar, Jonas Cruz, Juan Banal and Eric Yao carry the less glamorous but crucial responsibilities for the basketball team of the Ateneo de Manila University.

Emir, 17, an AB Psychology freshman, says of his job, "[It's] for the school. I just like to serve as part of the team and be able to watch the game in a different way. [Now] I'm a manager, before I was just part of the audience." If made to choose among managing, playing and cheering for the game, he'd choose what he is doing now. "If I play for the team, *nakakatakot* if *nasa iyo yung* focus and everything depends on what you do. If you're part of the audience, you won't know how it is to be down there with the players. With managing, you can cheer and be part of the team." Being a student manager somehow bridges the gap between being the star of the show and cheering in the background.

In fact, more students are now keen to be in his shoes. Once a volunteer job for veterans Didoy and Pat, the position now requires applicants to submit their bio-data and undergo screening. The job of a team manager seems to carry a certain appeal—the chance to do something good for the team without having to go into athletics.

Joy of mopping

The title may have the ring of authority, but managing is not for people allergic to work, although some steps have been taken to make certain tasks easier (the league has introduced a computerized system for taking down the team's statistics). When asked what job they did not look forward to doing, "mopping the floor" was the unanimous answer. But then they added that it gave them a free workout as well.

With their hectic schedules, the managers admit there are certain drawbacks to their jobs. Jonas, 18, a freshman in the AB Economics-honors program, says that finding some free time to be with their families can be a problem. "*Minsan pag may* game and *pinapatawag ka*, if your dad asks if you want to go out, *sasabihin mo may* practice *kami, hindi puwede*." But he adds that managing provides good training, especially in his field.

A major problem for many team managers is people trying to score free tickets. While they do have easier access to games—and perhaps extra tickets for parents and friends— they don't have a bunch of passes for giving away. And while they may feel near-invisible, there have been instances when they did get mobbed. Fans, both female and male, would ask them for autographs and phone numbers. Some are intrigued enough about the managers' roles to ask about them in UAAP and Atenista forums.

Perks of the job

In spite of having to do manual labor, they do get to enjoy certain perks as team managers. Pat, an AB Political Science junior and lawyer-to-be, says, "We get to be part of the team and become friends of the players. It's [also] like training. I used to play and I train for team games so when I watch the practices, I get to learn. And when you win, you really feel part of the team."

The camaraderie among team members—the coach, players and managers—is quite amazing in the sense that there is greater equality unlike in other work environments. Jonas explains, "I feel that everyone is equal *kasi* if *wala ang isa sa amin*, then *wala din ang buong* team. If *walang* coach, then *paano na kaming* players and managers? If *walang* players, then *bakit pa kami naging* managers?"

"In the court, this is what I have observed: when the players get so focused, they forget everything," he adds. "*Sasabihan ka minsan, 'Tabi ka muna diyan*,' or something like that. They may get hot-headed when they need something. We just have to understand that it's nothing because they're focused [on the game]. But the camaraderie's good."

Pat and Didoy both played basketball in high school but opted to be managers for the Blue Eagles. Didoy, 20, the head of the managers, used to play varsity basketball in San Beda, but he decided in college that a career in basketball was not the way to go. Loving the sport and still wanting to be a part of the team, managing was a great alternative. Like Pat, Didoy hopes to become a lawyer after finishing his degree in AB Political Science.

When asked to compare the physical and mental stress in playing and in managing, Didoy says, "Sometimes, I feel *naiinggit* because I used to play with some of the players in the team. Sometimes, I get *inggit* when I see the players and they're still active. But the good thing is I'm still part of the team."

Most stressful

Perhaps the most stressful experience for some of them was the tense final match between Ateneo and De La Salle University last season. The pressure was on everyone, including them. "One mistake *lang*," says Pat, "*pagagalitan na kami*. But I can't blame them because it was the championship." Later during the game, they had to stop the crowd from booing the players.

Didoy adds, "Araneta was so packed. One time, we were on the sidelines and La Salle fans were behind us. They were getting too close for comfort so the managers stood behind the benches to create a barrier for the team. It was a tough job. You were standing there the whole time trying to stop the crowd and you were feeling scared; who knew how the game would turn out and how the crowds would react?"

Serving their school as team managers, these Ateneans, as well as those in other schools, are also stars in their own right. They don't have to show their loyalty to their school by being on the court. Their dedication to their jobs and their love of the game have made them unsung heroes.

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Young voices on the courtside

By Christian B. Bautista
2bU! Correspondent

INITIATED in the basketball league's 63rd season, student sportscasters have since enjoyed a following in the UAAP. This year, seven out of the eight sportscasters are women, challenging the notion that men are better suited for sports broadcasting. Primarily, a student reporter gives updates on the state of the team during a game. Courtside reporters let the audience in on the details of injuries, strategy changes and other juicy tidbits on the basketball players. They work in the trenches, giving the audience a glimpse of the game from the participant's standpoint. As one sportscaster puts it, "My job is to convey the emotions on the bench. I should let the people in on the possible problems the team might be facing that the commentators are unable to see."

Patricia Laurel (AdMU)

Making her second tour of duty as courtside reporter for the Ateneo de Manila University Blue Eagles, Patty, as she is called, auditioned for sportscasting for the fun of it. She had no qualms about admitting her limited basketball knowledge. Despite her handicap, she was still selected to patrol the Ateneo bench.

Having a year's experience under her belt hasn't diminished the butterflies in Laurel's stomach at every coverage.

This communications junior said sportscasting isn't easy. "The misconception about my job is that it's all glamour. But it's hard work," she said. "It's like I'm under this gigantic magnifying glass. And I'm very vulnerable to criticism."

But nothing can dampen her enthusiasm. "Although I'm very serious about my job, it's really a pleasure for me to be doing this. From a clueless couch potato, I'm now a die hard Blue Eagles fan."

Cristina Cañada (UP)

Currently a newscaster for Magic 89.9, Cañada made the big jump to TV broadcasting as sportscaster for the University of the Philippines Fighting Maroons.

Despite being a "newbie" in TV broadcasting, as she would phrase it, she said her experience in radio helped her get the sportscasting slot.

She had reservations about auditioning for the spot. She wasn't much of a UAAP fan. "I was more of a passive spectator. I'm not a sporty kind of person," she said.

In her audition, Cañada was asked to report about UP coming back from a five-point deficit to win against tournament favorite Ateneo. Holding up her microphone to interview nothing but thin air, her spiel scored points to impress the panel.

"I'd like to think that for a first-timer, I was good enough," she said about her performance so far. But it would have been better *kung hindi ako nagpadala sa kaba ko*."

She laughed. "I have a funny feeling I'll start to love this game."

Dianne Marie Romana (UST)

Because she's a television actress, Dianne Marie Romana does not find it difficult to go in front of the camera. But she said sportscasting is a different ballgame. "Being an actress helped a bit, because I got to be on TV before," she said. "But (being a student reporter) is a different job, *mas* spontaneous.".

Since the audition came at such short notice, only two people from UST tried out for the job. The 17-year-old and her friend were the only ones who showed up. Consequently, "Dimples," as she is more popularly called, got the job as courtside reporter for the University of Santo Tomas Growling Tigers.

Romana said she only became a UAAP fan when she entered UST. The tourism sophomore attributes her fondness for the league to the friendship she has established with some of the players.

She found her first game rough going. "I was so nervous, and a bit shaky. I made some boo-boos," she admitted. But the crackerjack actress that she is, she charged the episode to experience. "I'm considering buying an 'Idiot's guide to basketball' book," she said.

Agnes Legaspi Tapia (DLSU)

Communication arts junior Agnes Tapia almost didn't take the audition for the sportscasting job for the De La Salle University Green Archers seriously.

Before being a courtside reporter, the 20-year-old regularly watched the Archers play. When Studio 23, the station that airs the UAAP games, told her she was chosen for the task, she had a hard time believing it. "The others were good," she said. "I just had luck on my side."

Not exactly well-versed in basketball, Tapia said she brushed up on basketball lore. She is determined to acquire the technical know-how to explain the game expertly.

Marc Manalo (FEU)

The only male courtside reporter in the group, 24-year-old Marc Manalo said he tried out for the newscasting job because of his fondness for sports. "I was already a sports fan before I became a sportscaster. And I love basketball," he said.

In the audition, the mass communications junior was told to make a report about the Far Eastern University Tamaraws being down by 10 against La Salle in the fourth quarter. Manalo said he had a hard time calming his nerves.

The nerves again nearly failed him in his first coverage. "It was okay, at first. But I got nervous."

Unlike his female counterparts, Manalo said he learned about basketball from playing the game firsthand. "(What I know) is very basic. The kind of knowledge you get when you play the game."

Manalo is taking everything in stride. "It's a learning experience. I guess I can only improve from here," he said.

Sharon Gale Sunga (NU)

A former muse for the National University Bulldogs, Sunga is now the squad's courtside reporter.

The 24-year-old admitted she has a limited knowledge of basketball. "I don't know the technical side. I just love watching," she said.

The communications senior didn't even need to audition. No one from her school applied for the spot, so she was asked by the dean to do the reporting from the NU bench.

Asked about her first game, she said, "I was so nervous. I think I stuttered."

Aileen Sabiaga (Adamson)

On her second year as sportscaster is Aileen Sabiaga. The 21-year-old spent the eve of her birthday covering Adamson's season opener against UST.

Last year, Sabiaga hadn't expected to get the job. "I got lucky," she said. This mass communications senior said her knowledge of basketball had vastly increased after her first year of sportscasting. She even gives players pointers to improve their game.

Sabiaga's enthusiasm for the sport has also increased. "It's different when you're sportscasting for your school. It's a different story when you get to be in the dug-outs," she said.

More than anything else, she said her zeal for the game got her the job.

Carmina Joy Mariano (UE)

A varsity chess player for the University of the East, Carmina Joy Mariano gave up her spot in the squad to become the Red Warrior's courtside reporter. Because the chess tournaments conflicted with the play dates for men's basketball, this mass communications senior chose to pad her resume with a stint in TV broadcasting.

In her audition, Mariano was asked to report on what UE head coach Boycie Zamar had to say with his team up by six in the fourth quarter. She said her experience in sports made her stand out during the audition. "I was different. I'm more confident because I have a (sporting) background," she explained

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Cartoon festival
JULY 15 - AUG 18

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Per DTI-NCR permit No. 2554 Series of 2002

She's worried about losing her best friend

Carlos Garchitorena & September Mabino

DEAR Sep and Carlos,

From kinder to third grade, my best friend and I were in the same school. We seldom fought. Whenever we had fights, we didn't let the day pass without saying sorry to each other. That's how beautiful our friendship was. When I transferred to another school, we still communicated. After graduation, I returned to my former school to enroll in the secondary level. She was still there, but I noticed that she had changed a lot. It's like I didn't know her anymore. We often quarreled, so I thought that we were not the best of friends anymore.

One time, she called me up and my brother answered it. He told me, "Best friend *mo!*" I replied before answering the phone, "Correction, *di ko na siya* best friend!" I didn't think that my brother would tell her about it through the extension line. She was hurt. I didn't know why she would be hurt when she had another best friend. Since then, we have drifted apart. But we still greet each other whenever we meet in school. I don't have the courage to call her up and talk about it. What should I do?

DAFFODILS

I guess you have the right to declare that your friend isn't your best friend anymore. If you felt that being a best friend meant being the single best friend to someone, no one could emotionally pressure you into believing otherwise. Don't be too worried about the strained relationship between you and your ex-best friend. Like I have said before, physical distance can change people and their relationships no matter how much they don't want to or try not to. When you moved to a different school, your friend stopped being an active part of your life, even if you were still able to communicate with her. And you probably weren't on the top of her mind, too, all that time when you were separated. That explains why she seems to have changed when you met her again—both of you have grown up.

There's nothing much you can do to bring back the old friendship. You let go of the fantasy of having the same old best friend the moment you accepted that you weren't hers anymore. Now, it's up to your friend to accept that fact, too, and be good-natured about it. Sure, she's hurt, but I guess, so are you. You both need time to absorb all that, preferably separately. Being elusive, being friendly but from afar, these are her ways of coping with the situation and the best thing you can do is to respect her choice. You don't have to do anything more, like calling her up and talking about the problem. I think you're doing fine.

SEP

I've always liked the idea of best friends. My first best friends were George, the Rabbit, and Pescop, the Turtle. We formed the most secret and exclusive of clubs called The Species Three. We played games to cheer ourselves up when one of us would be sad: hide and seek for Pescop, the 50-yard dash for George. But when I was sad, no one wanted to play the games that I liked. I had to play with humans. Back then I couldn't understand it. Why didn't I feel accepted among my four-legged friends? Was it the fact that they were clawed creatures while I was not? Was it because they could be served in a stew, while I was not? Back then, the "why" didn't matter. I moved on, and the concept of "best friends" to me became a private joke that, actually, didn't make me laugh.

Over the years, having great friends was "great." Along with changes in my lifestyle, alma mater and hormone levels, came different names, faces and pickup lines. Having "been around" and exploring "many different alleyways," great friends were great when compartmentalized; they shared my interests at different points in my life. When people told me that I spread myself too thin, a social mixer would prove them wrong.

Have you ever heard about the ride in Disneyland that had "It's a Small World After All?" That is my life. A sickening song with a meaning that everyone sings, complains about and never gets over. Just like a spinning teacup, my mind would reel as if in a universal centrifuge, only to coagulate and set me down, back to earth…a new life, a new form, a new me. Alien, yet jiving with my momentary perceptions of reality. Quote the Blarm: "When your worlds would collide, or tear apart, make sandcastles."

CARLOS

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It wouldn't be just…
…our students who learn of our tradition…
…our colleagues who recognize our achievements…
…our neighbors who witness our growth…
…our partners who realize their dreams with us…

Out there are more lives that must be touched.

De La Salle University-Dasmariñas. 25 years.
The list doesn't just end here.

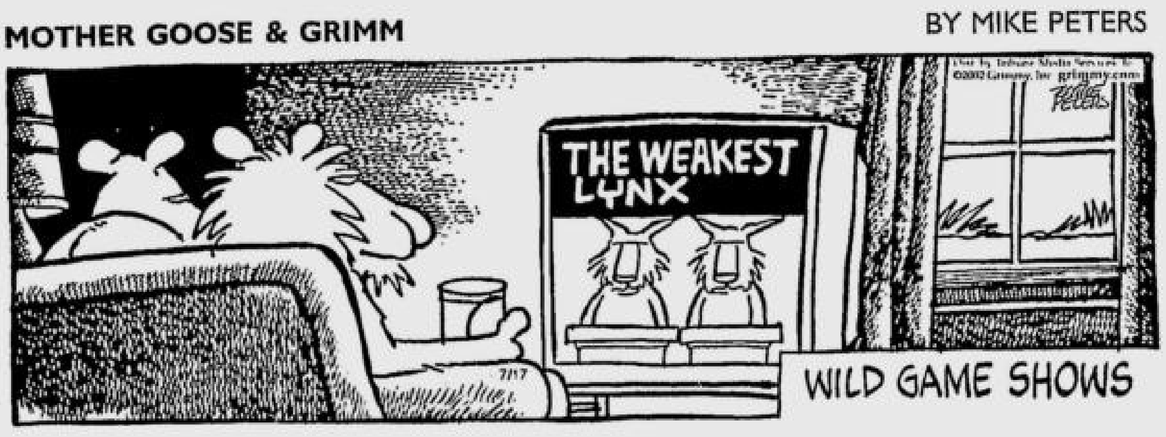
De La Salle University-Dasmariñas was recently given a Level II reaccreditation by PAASCU, was adjudged a Center of Development for Excellence in IT education by CHED, was cited for its consistent high performance in board examinations, and has established linkages with schools and companies both here and abroad to further strengthen its academic programs.

Growth is very evident in its modern learning facilities; its commitment to promote Filipino culture and the arts shown in the establishment of the Museum Complex.

DLSU-D is also instrumental in various community extension projects to help its immediate environs, among them, Balik-Aral/Hatid-Aral programs, and the Business Skills Development Resource Center.

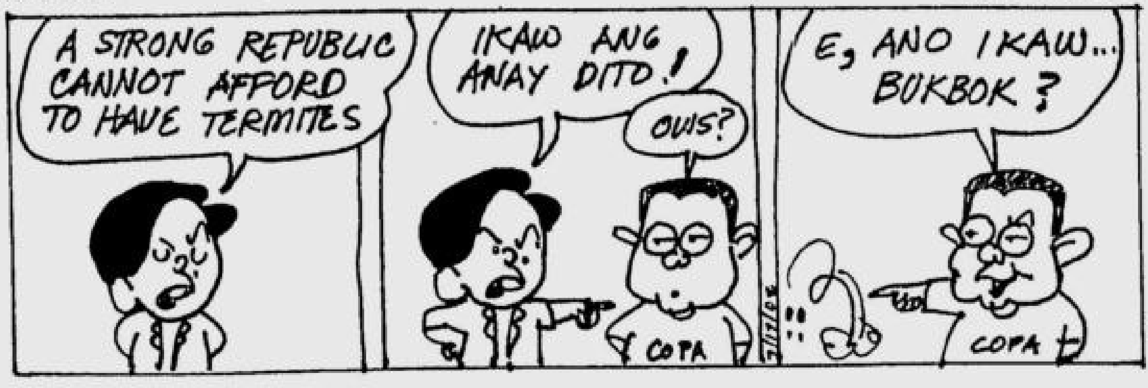
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


THE WEAKEST LYNX
WILD GAME SHOWS
7/17

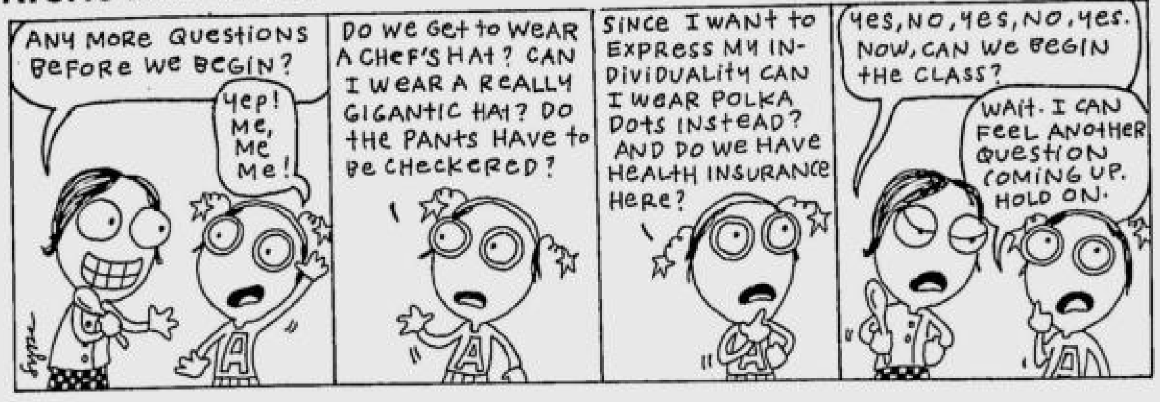
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


A STRONG REPUBLIC CANNOT AFFORD TO HAVE TERMITES
IKAW ANG ANAY DITO!
OUIS?
E, ANO IKAW... BUKBOK ?
COPA
COPA

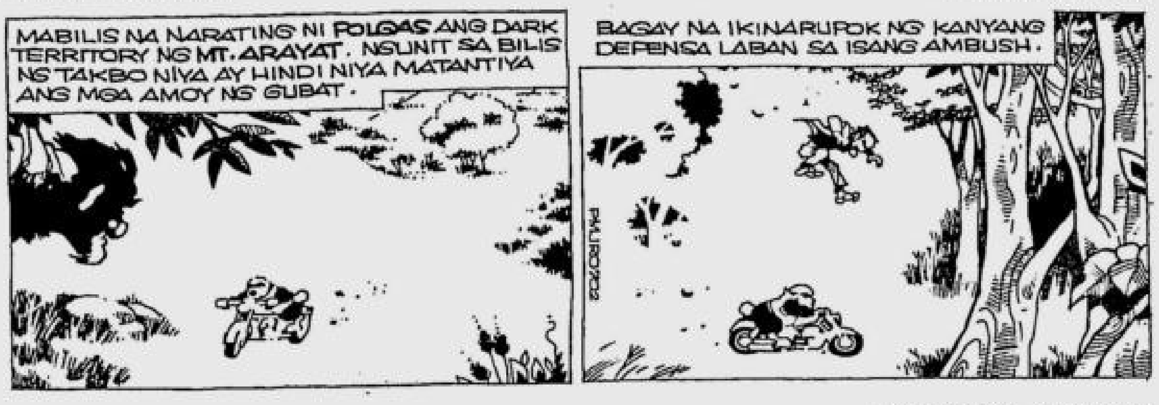
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


ANY MORE QUESTIONS BEFORE WE BEGIN?
YEP! ME, ME ME!
DO WE GET TO WEAR A CHEF'S HAT? CAN I WEAR A REALLY GIGANTIC HAT? DO THE PANTS HAVE TO BE CHECKERED?
SINCE I WANT TO EXPRESS MY INDIVIDUALITY CAN I WEAR POLKA DOTS INSTEAD? AND DO WE HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE HERE?
YES, NO, YES, NO, YES. NOW, CAN WE BEGIN THE CLASS?
WAIT. I CAN FEEL ANOTHER QUESTION COMING UP. HOLD ON.

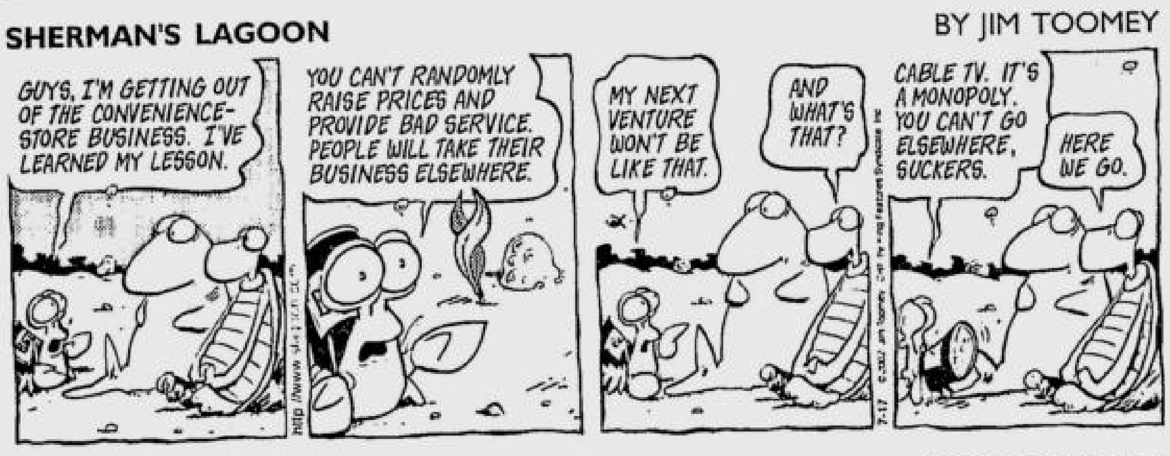
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MABILIS NA NARATING NI POLGAS ANG DARK TERRITORY NG MT. ARAYAT. NGUNIT SA BILIS NG TAKBO NIYA AY HINDI NIYA MATANTIYA ANG MGA AMOY NG GUBAT.
BAGAY NA IKINARUPOK NG KANYANG DEPENSA LABAN SA ISANG AMBUSH.

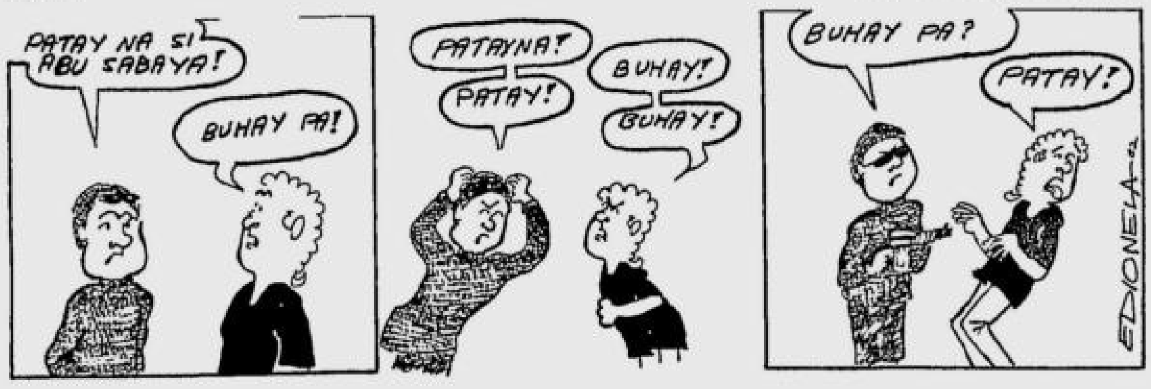
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


GUYS, I'M GETTING OUT OF THE CONVENIENCE-STORE BUSINESS. I'VE LEARNED MY LESSON.
YOU CAN'T RANDOMLY RAISE PRICES AND PROVIDE BAD SERVICE. PEOPLE WILL TAKE THEIR BUSINESS ELSEWHERE.
MY NEXT VENTURE WON'T BE LIKE THAT.
AND WHAT'S THAT?
CABLE TV. IT'S A MONOPOLY. YOU CAN'T GO ELSEWHERE, SUCKERS.
HERE WE GO.
7-17

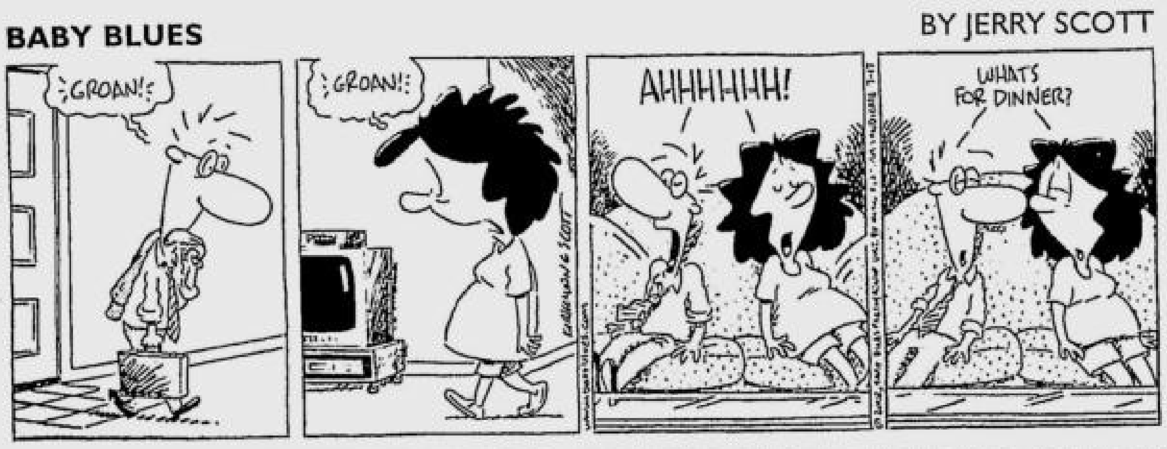
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


PATAY NA SI ABU SABAYA!
BUHAY PA!
PATAYNA!
PATAY!
BUHAY!
BUHAY!
BUHAY PA?
PATAY!
EDIONELA

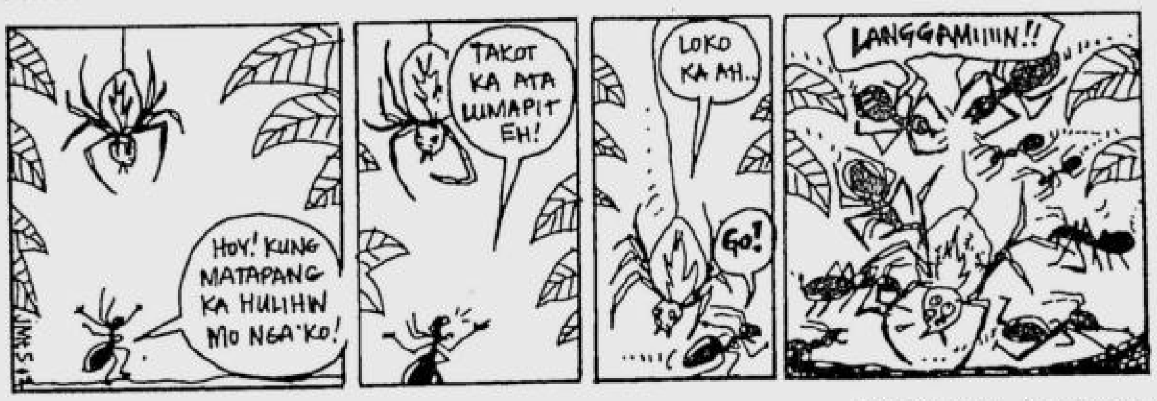
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


GROAN!
GROAN!
AHHHHHH!
WHATS FOR DINNER?

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


HOY! KUNG MATAPANG KA HULIHIN MO NGA'KO!
TAKOT KA ATA LUMAPIT EH!
LOKO KA AH...
GO!
LANGGAMIIIIN!!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Diahann Carroll, David Hasselhoff, Phyllis Diller

Happy Birthday: Your ability to pick up someone's feelings will help you understand both your business and personal relationships. Your closest partnerships will grow, enabling you to share more of your values with these particular people. You'll have trouble letting go of the past but don't let it affect those you love. Your numbers are 1, 4, 18, 27, 34, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You will find it quite easy to make money today. You will be lucky when it comes to work, investments and financial matters. Think twice before you spend money.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will be lucky when it comes to your professional career, interviews and advancement. Expenditures will be tempting, but you should hold off until your finances are stable.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will incorporate creative flair into everything you do. You will find it easy to get along with others, and you will have some great ideas for improving yourself.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You're likely to visit friends or family today, and you will go to great lengths to organize functions that will bring you all together. You'll be understanding and admired by others.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Sign up to learn something new. Educational pursuits will pay off in more ways than one. Travel and communication will be to your advantage.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your increased willpower will lead to professional advancement today. Try to establish a good rapport with individuals who are in positions of power and authority. Be careful what you do at a personal level.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your personal relationships will be harmonious today. You need to take some time to regenerate and decide what you want to do with the rest of your life.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll have a greater understanding today of what makes you who you are. You'll know your capabilities and your limits. Being in tune with yourself will contribute to your success.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Get involved in social activities today that include your whole family. You will lean toward creative hobbies that will enhance your home or yourself.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll want to help everyone you come in contact with. Your bleeding heart will be a target for charlatans if you aren't discriminating. You will be attracted to organizations that deal with issues .

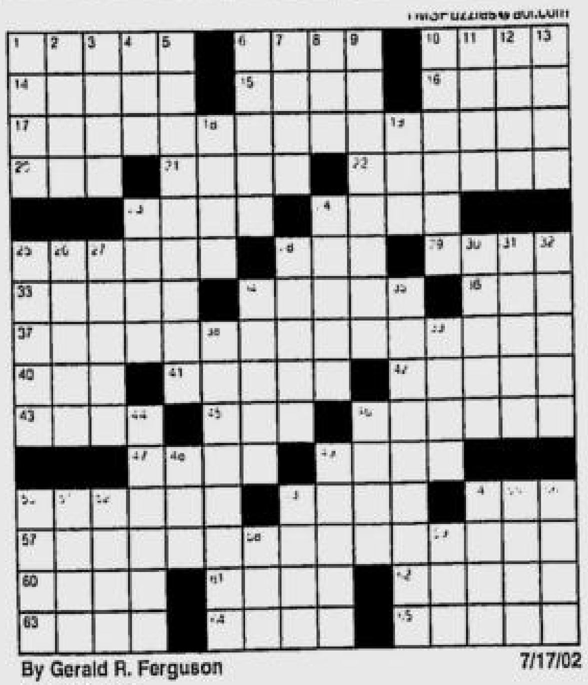
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will be fascinated by different cultures or traditional beliefs today. Attend a cultural event and discover more about the way others live. This is a great day to become aware of what's going on around you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will feel insecure when it comes to money matters. Your determination to crusade for a worthy cause may be looked down upon by close friends. Don't push your opinions on others.

Birthday Baby: You will not settle for anything less than exactly what you want. You will get the variety you like no matter what it takes. You will resist anyone who tries to push you.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Gerald R. Ferguson
Portland, OR

7/17/02

ACROSS
1 Pentateuch
6 Times of note
10 Swamp snapper, briefly
14 Writer Calvino
15 "Doctor Zhivago" heroine
16 Round dance
17 Embassy mailbag
20 NY hrs.
21 Destiny
22 Seoul resident
23 Irish Rose lover
24 Pray in Notre Dame
25 Holland or Lincoln, e.g.
28 Mexicali Mrs.
29 Part of the plot?
33 Loos or Ekberg
34 Long narrative poems
36 Poetic meadow
37 Spy's quest
40 Season in Burgundy
41 Sen. Thurmond
42 Too weird
43 Cubicle furniture
45 Won follower?
46 Meanders
47 Adored one
49 Train to box
50 One end of a pencil
53 Affirm positively
54 Diamond stat
57 Higher-up's choice
60 Mayberry boy
61 Actress Moran
62 Cathedral instrument
63 Cozy home
64 Cravings
65 Travels by glider

DOWN
1 Ocean's rise and fall
2 Elevator man
3 Absorbed, as in thought
4 Everyone
5 Clops
6 Lift spirits of
7 Charge per unit
8 Onassis, to pals
9 Company picnic event
10 Nervous disorder
11 Rake
12 Killer whale
13 "High Hopes" lyricist
18 Word after chain or junk
19 Hawaiian dish
23 Opposed
24 Rainbow maker
25 Brought to heel
26 Come together
27 Frasier Crane's brother
28 Be a peeping Tom
30 Filer
31 Knot again
32 Palliates
34 Actor Flynn
35 Plot outlines
38 Court figure
39 Raise
44 Destiny
46 On __ (without guarantee)
48 Narcs' grp.
49 Nykvist and Davidson
50 Wharton School subj.
51 Early Hitchcock film
52 French friends
53 Tennis situation
54 Latvian capital
55 Male swine
56 Travel stops
58 Rapping Doctor
59 Sellout letters

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

P	A	P	A	■	D	I	A	L	S	■	L	I	M	B
A	C	E	S	■	A	S	S	E	T	■	I	D	E	A
S	L	A	P	■	L	E	O	N	A	■	K	O	N	G
O	U	T	I	N	L	E	F	T	F	I	E	L	D	■
■	■	■	R	O	Y	■	■	■	F	A	N	■	■	■
L	I	N	E	R	■	A	H	A	■	M	E	C	C	A
A	M	O	■	S	A	N	E	S	T	■	S	H	O	D
B	A	T	T	E	D	A	T	H	O	U	S	A	N	D
O	G	R	E	■	S	C	R	E	E	N	■	I	D	O
R	E	E	L	S	■	T	O	N	■	M	O	R	O	N
■	■	■	L	A	P	■	■	■	O	E	R	■	■	■
■	G	O	T	T	O	F	I	R	S	T	B	A	S	E
A	L	M	A	■	P	A	N	I	C	■	A	L	E	X
V	E	I	L	■	U	T	I	C	A	■	C	L	A	P
A	N	T	E	■	P	E	T	E	R	■	H	A	L	O

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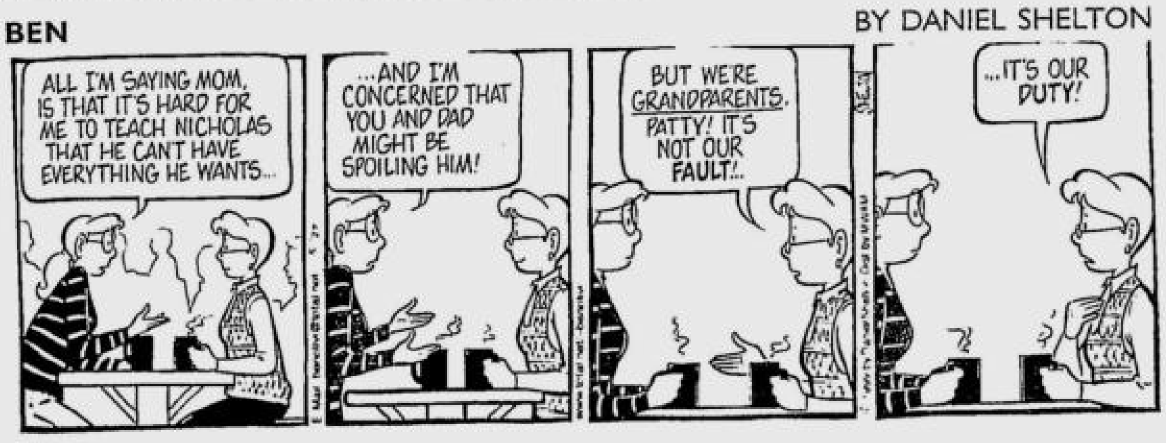
7/17/02

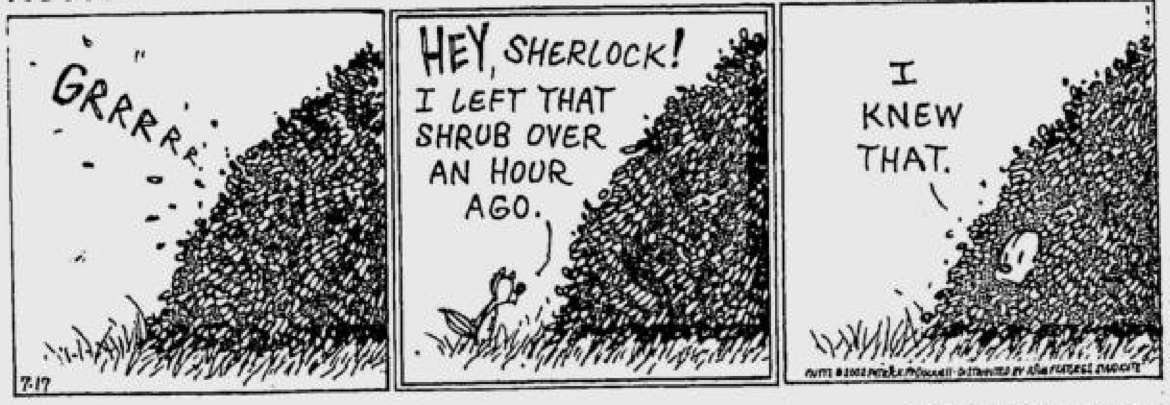
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


ALL I'M SAYING MOM, IS THAT IT'S HARD FOR ME TO TEACH NICHOLAS THAT HE CAN'T HAVE EVERYTHING HE WANTS...
...AND I'M CONCERNED THAT YOU AND DAD MIGHT BE SPOILING HIM!
BUT WE'RE GRANDPARENTS, PATTY! IT'S NOT OUR FAULT!..
...IT'S OUR DUTY!

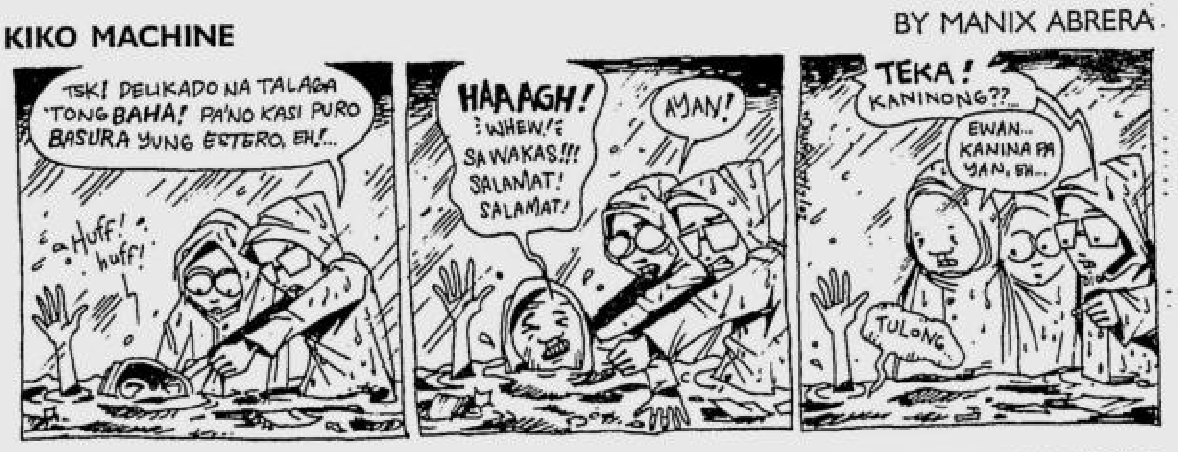
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


GRRRRR
HEY, SHERLOCK! I LEFT THAT SHRUB OVER AN HOUR AGO.
I KNEW THAT.
7-17

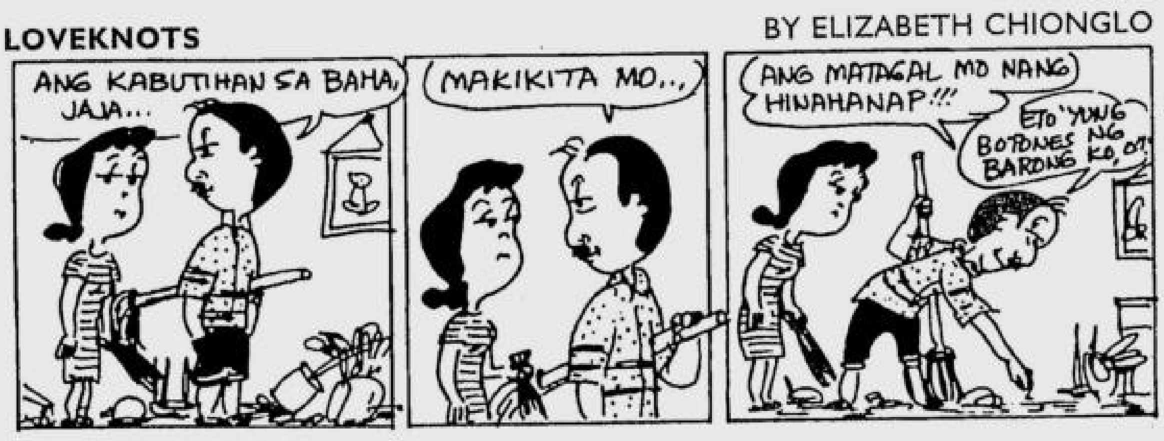
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


TSK! DELIKADO NA TALAGA 'TONG BAHA! PA'NO KASI PURO BASURA YUNG ESTERO, EH!...
HUFF! HUFF!
HAAAGH! WHEW! SA WAKAS!!! SALAMAT! SALAMAT!
AYAN!
TEKA! KANINONG??...
EWAN... KANINA PA YAN, EH...
TULONG

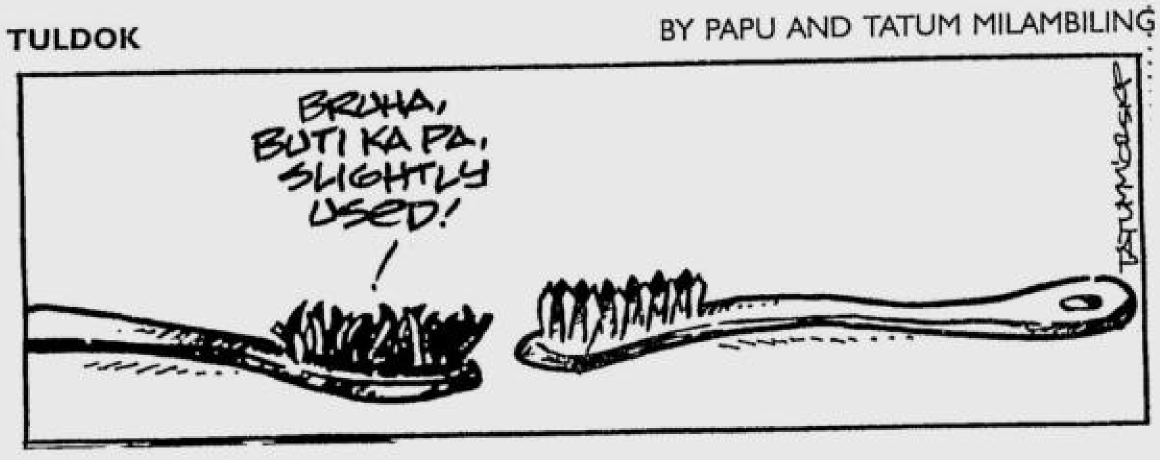
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANG KABUTIHAN SA BAHA, JAJA...
MAKIKITA MO...
ANG MATAGAL MO NANG HINAHANAP!!!
ETO 'YUNG BOTONES NG BARONG KO, O!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BRUHA, BUTI KA PA, SLIGHTLY USED!
TATUM

ESPRIT de Corps' relaxed spirit lives on.

LOVING LEE. Street wear goes trash punk.

SHORT shorts and striped socks equals glam rock.

Jollibee
DailySpecials
Wednesday
Double 1-pc Burger Steak
P49
Before
Langhap-Sarap
Jollibee
bee happy

ACCESSORIZED denim and red veiled number

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

Putting an ink on fashion and music

U FAMILY. Hindy, Bea and Gippy Tantoco

Tim Yap

MTV Ink, that hip magazine on music and trends, recently celebrated its first anniversary at the NBC Tent. Outside the VIP lounge, **Anna Shier** and. **Derek Ramsey** played cyber fellows as a parade of hipsters from the fashion and music fields had their attendance checked by iconic publishing mother-and-son tandem **Gracy** and **Vernon Go**. Low-profile editor in chief **Kristine Fonacier** was busy entertaining her media friends as well.

After cocktails, a trend show followed, with a hodgepodge of hip from retail brands like Esprit de Corps, Penshoppe, Lee Jeans, U2, Surplus Shop and SM's The Edge. It was refreshing how these brands were styled in an avant-garde manner. Later that night, elusive designer **Bubum Melgar** showcased his own version of sexy, hot couture.

The brands were priced from the low to the high margins, yet shirts and jeans were deconstructed and reconstructed, and embellished with pins, tulle, paint and buttons—very creative, very now. Goes to show that fashion these days does not have to go with a hefty price tag—it it sinks or shines with individual creativity.

I picked up the latest issue of MTV Ink for free (it sells for P35 in other stores) as I was shopping in Shangri-La Plaza one rainy day (there's nothing like retail therapy to beat the rainy-day blues). I dig its "Campus Ink" section, which analyzed tuition rates and identified the schools that are raking it in. Another time, it featured young writers like **Lourd De Veyra** and **Lille Bose**, and did a research on whether young people still read or not.

Within its pages is an amalgam of pop and bubble gum without the magazine trying to be too sweet. From **Michelle Branch** to **Mandy Moore** to **The Corrs**, to fashion and parties—this mag has got it covered. The night of its first birthday, a huge crowd of yuppies and youngsters gathered to celebrate it with a bang. A concert featuring hip pop artists followed.

To MTV Ink, Happy 1st! And more to come.

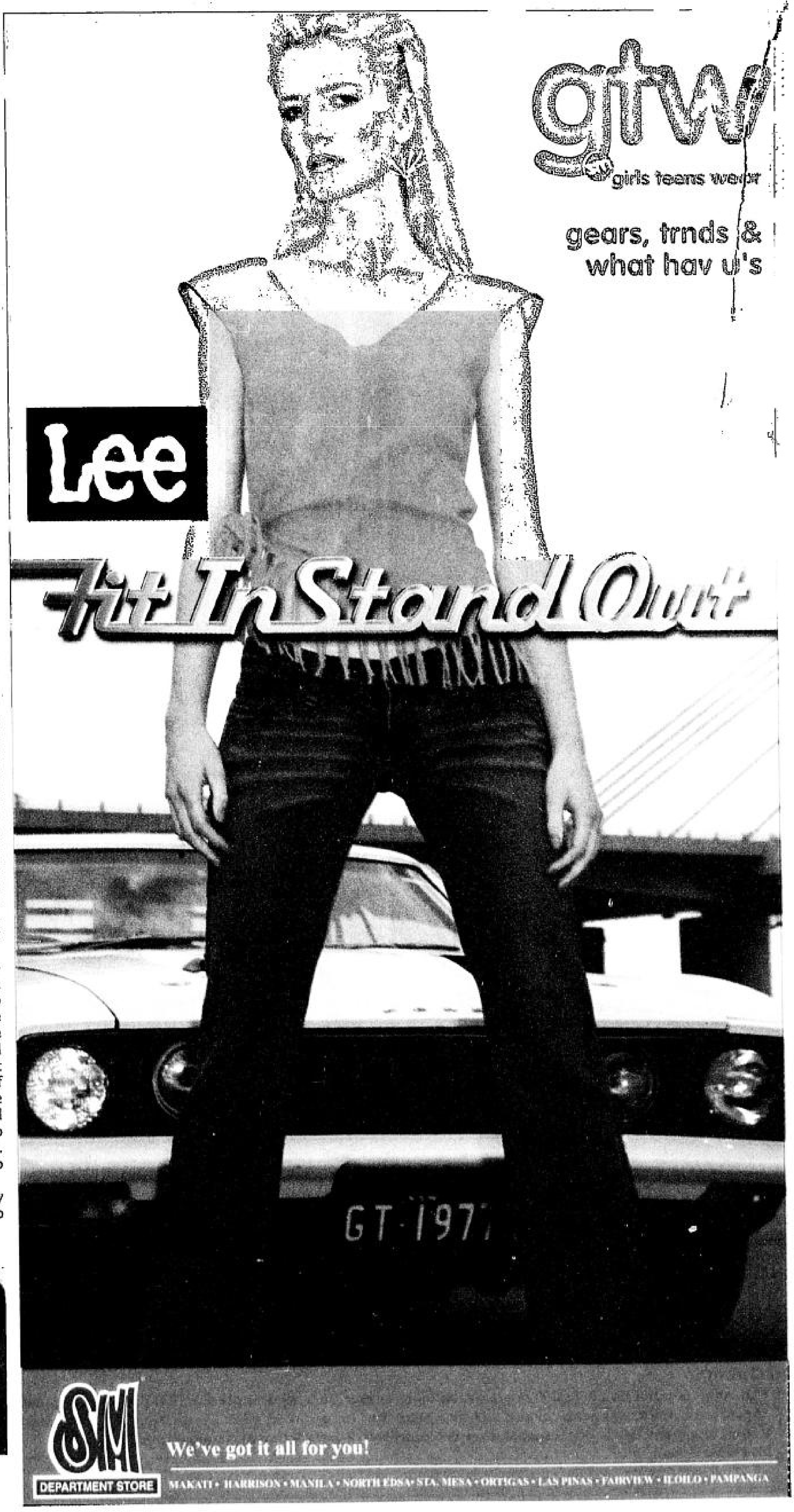
CAL Carrie's supermodel Verns Buckley in Bubum Melgar

ARTFUL STYLE. Reina Cruz and Mike Sanchez

CYBER SAVVY. Anna Shier and Derek Ramsey with Parokya ni Edgar

DECONSTRUCTIVE denim on models at the MTV Ink anniversary show at the NBC Tent

EIC Kristine Fonacier and Tammy David



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For love of the league

By Jude Turcuato
Contributor

FOR THE EIGHTH straight July, I entered the historic Araneta Coliseum with renewed excitement and anxiety as a new season of the UAAP was about to unfold. It was good to see the familiar faces that have been part of the league. Similar delighted smiles were apparent on the faces of the UAAP board members, cheerleaders, fans and press people alike. Even Father Holscher, S.J., the UAAP president back in my first year as a broadcaster, was in attendance to do the invocation.

I have come full circle with the league. The UAAP has been a yearly habit for me since the days when Silverstar covered the games. Like many inside the Big Dome that day, I was very happy to be back in the familiar surroundings of the UAAP.

Why do I love the UAAP?

I love getting engulfed by the deafening cheers and the loud drums piercing through the coliseum walls. The atmosphere really is unmatched as school loyalties are amplified with staff, students and alumni of each school flocking to the games, ready to unleash their vocal chords to cheer their teams. Players are not the only ones who go home tired as the emotions of all fans, from both the winning and losing teams, are drained after every big game. You won't not find a louder sporting arena anywhere.

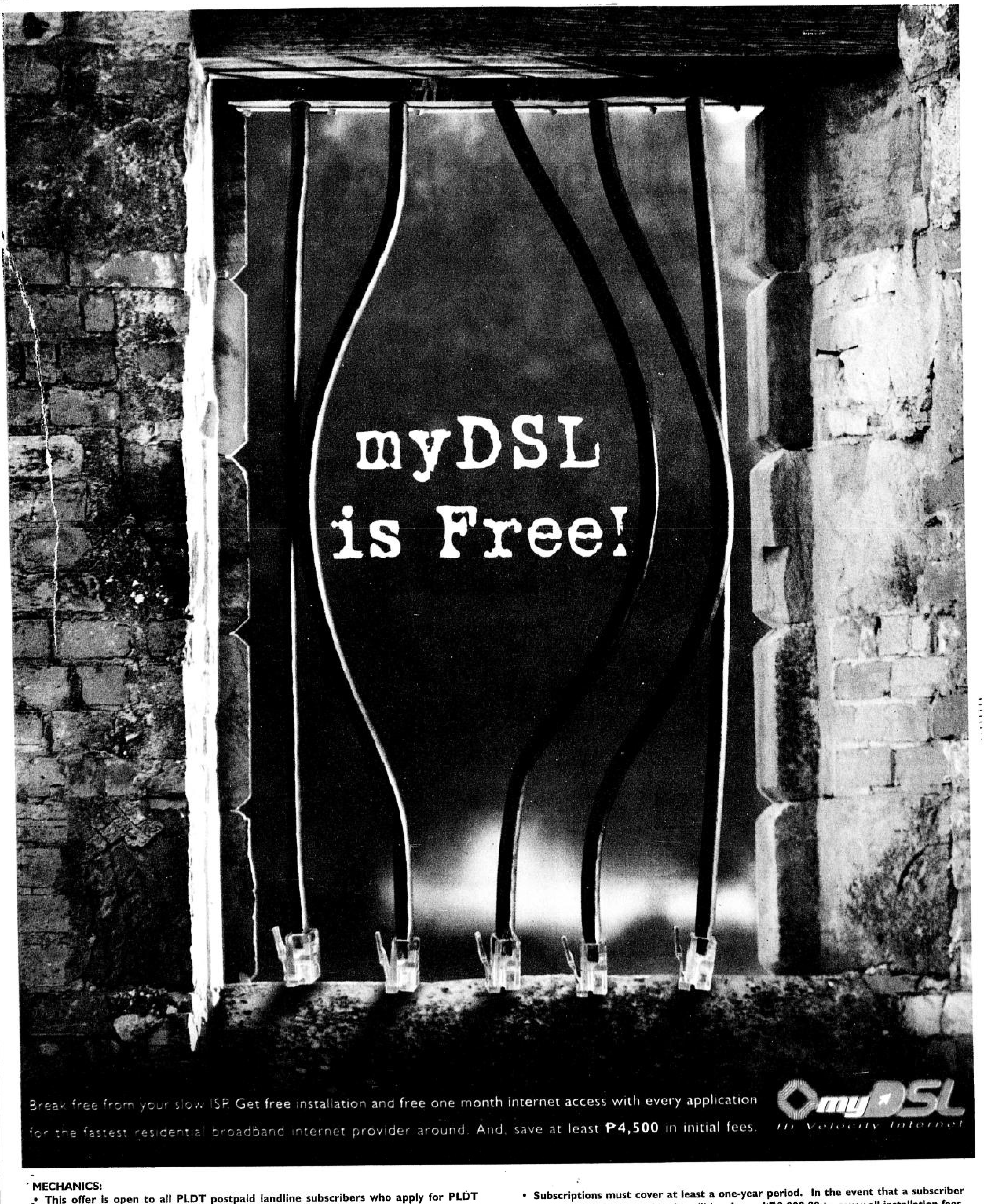
I love witnessing the growth and progress of each and every player. Watching an athlete blossom into a star is one of the joys of being part of UAAP basketball. Every year, there is always excitement as everyone waits and watches for the new recruits of each school. Players are still teachable and easily molded into even better players than when they first entered the league. I saw Dino Aldeguer work his way from the training team of DLSU into the best clutch player in the league during his playing years. Dale Singson emerged from Bal David's shadow in UST to become one of the most reliable point guards in the last decade. Danny Ildefonso, Paolo Mendoza, Brian Gahol, Mark Telan, Don Allado, many big names in Philippine basketball today all learned how to play under pressure and honed their skills in the UAAP. Now, a new crop of future stars performs under the spotlight before a national television audience.

I love the fact that the players, no matter how good or popular, are still only regular students who have to study and do their homeworks. The players have to work with group mates on different school projects, take exams and go to proms like everyone else. The connection between player and student extends beyond cheering during a game. The players always have to go back to school the next day after a game and live among the same fans who saw them perform the day before.

I love the way UAAP games bring each school community together as one. These unified communities have created the greatest rivalries in the country. Whether it be the loud cries from the UE gallery, the "U-ni-ber-si-dad" cheer of the Maroons, the "Go La Salle" chant of the Archer fans, the "Go Uste!" shout of the Thomasians or the "One Big Fight" roar of Ateneo, the students and alumni of each school can gather as a group, forget the distractions of life for one afternoon and pull together toward a unified focus. In many cases it's a time for the alumni to remember their student days as they join the cheers from the stands.

And, most important, I love it that the players play for pride and loyalty instead of money. I know there is always money involved in big-time sports (especially basketball), but the UAAP is the closest thing to pure amateur basketball in the country. There are more floorburns, jumpballs, and wetspots on the floor because of players diving for loose balls and playing with all their heart. At a time when players' salaries have continued to escalate in commercial leagues, most UAAP players still maintain a sense of virtuousness and play for the sake of playing and representing their schools. In this league, heart counts more than talent, potential and reputation.

I now look forward to the 65th UAAP season with the same love as before and with the desire to see it grow and improve further. They say that people who find jobs they love never have to work a day in their lives. If that's the case, I haven't worked a day for the last eight years.



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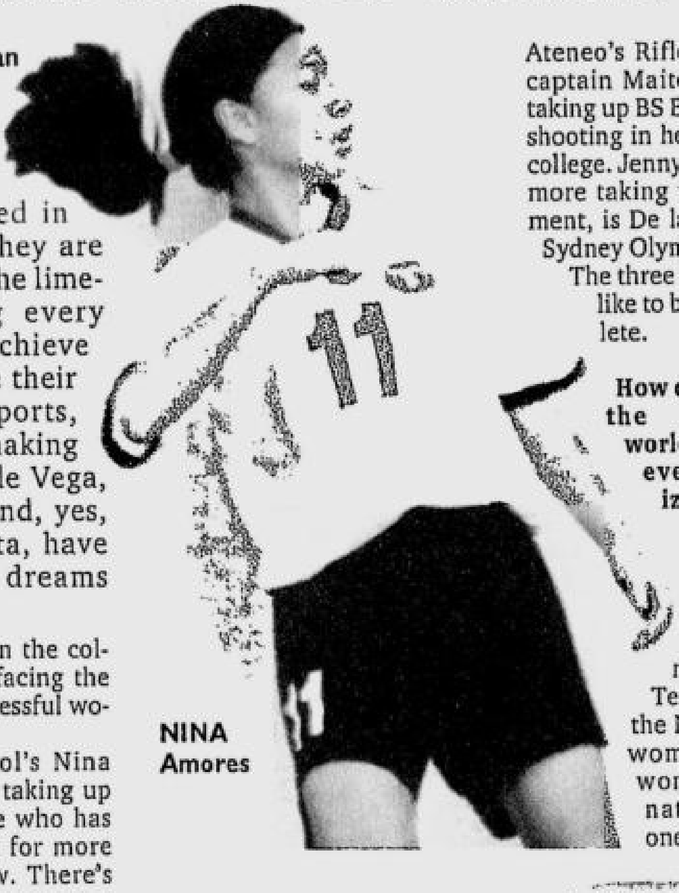
Women athletes challenge male domination of sports

By Saleema Devi Refran
2bU! Correspondent



NINA Amores

GONE are the days when women stayed in the background. They are now stepping into the limelight, conquering every field possible to achieve their goals and live their dreams. Even in sports, more women are making their mark. Lydia de Vega, Akiko Thompson and, yes, even Nancy Navalta, have made their sports dreams come true.

Now three women in the college sports arena are facing the challenge of being successful women athletes.

Meet the UP Futbol's Nina Amores, a sophomore taking up comparative literature who has been playing football for more than seven years now. There's Ateneo's Rifle and Pistol Team captain Maite Leyeza, a senior taking up BS Biology who took up shooting in her freshman year in college. Jenny Guerrero, a sophomore taking up sports management, is De la Salle University's Sydney Olympian in swimming.

The three talk about what it is like to be a woman and athlete.

How does it feel to be in the male-dominated world of sports? Do you ever feel marginalized?

Maite Leyeza (M): I never felt marginalized because a lot of the alumni of the Ateneo Rifle and Pistol Team and who got into the National Team were women. We have two women who hold the national record and one woman went to the Olympics. In shooting, the women really excel.

Jenny Guerrero (J): *Sa amin kasi* equal *lahat sa* training, male or female. I train with the boys. *Talagang isinasabay ako ng* coach *ko sa mga lalake*.

Nina Amores (N): In Futbol, it's different. *Mas* rigorous *yung* training *sa* men than *sa* women. *Mas* light *pero* competitive *din ang* women's so *kung ano yung makakaya namin*, we go there.

Do you feel that women in sports are not given as much attention as the men?

WOMEN/ p.D2

'What we're trying to do is make the world realize that girls are not what they used to be'

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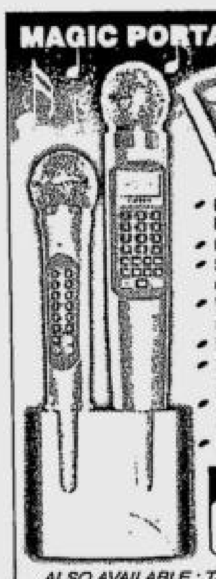

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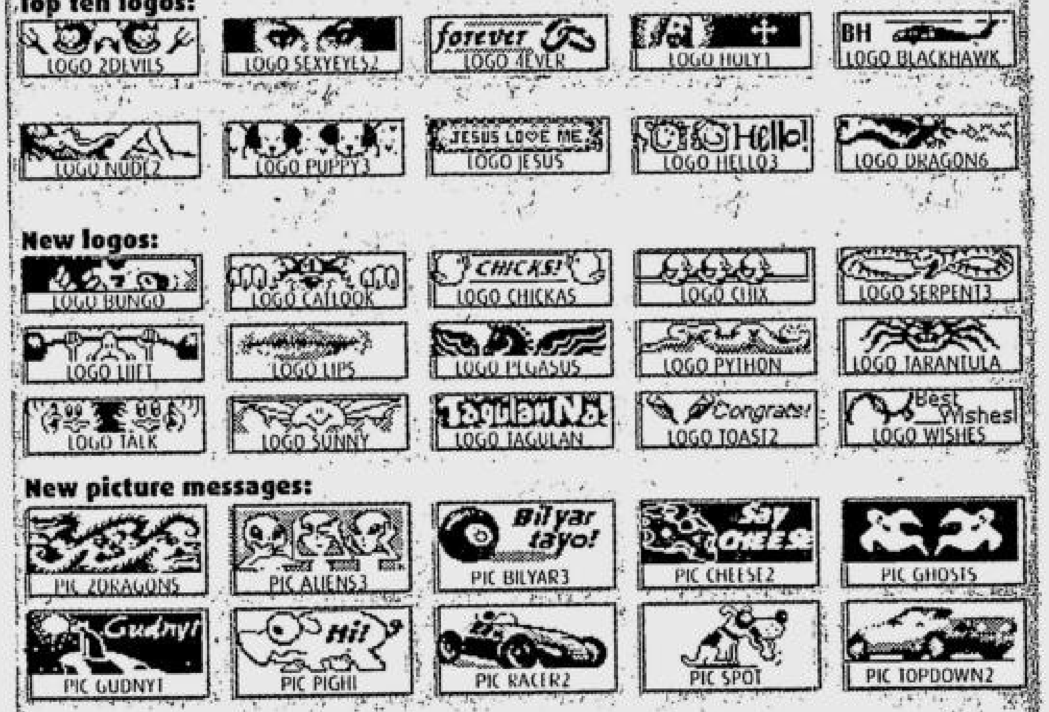

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Dreams	*The Corrs*	**TONE DREAMS**
Green Green Grass Of Home	*Tom Jones; Porter Wagoner*	**TONE GRNGRASS**
What If She's An Angel	*Tommy Shane Steiner*	**TONE WHATIF**
Inside Out	*Trisha Yearwood*	**TONE INSIDEOUT**
Don't Go	*Yaz*	**TONE DONTGO**

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Women athletes challenge male domination of sports

From page D1

MAITE Leyeza

J: I think *hindi naman*. It depends *kasi siguro sa* sport. Basketball, *talagang* men's sport *yan*. But in swimming, *wala*. Equal *lang lahat*.

M: Basketball, if you use that as an example, of course. It's a male-dominated sport because of all the exposure they get on TV and everything. The only thing I notice about women in sports is that they (media) always choose the prettiest athlete *na magaling*. She always has to be pretty.

N: Like what she said, basketball is the one that's given attention all the time. Especially since they have this much coverage in the UAAP. With us in football, we don't really get that much attention. I guess that's just life. *Kung ano yung* famous sport *dun talaga ang* focus.

What are the advantages of being a woman in sports?

J: *Siguro* you can prove *na kaya mo rin yung mga ginagawa nung mga* male athletes. *Sa* training *kasi namin* same *lang*. *Walang* discrimination. Women are out there to prove *na kaya din nila*. (Smiles)

M: I think a woman who excels in her sport will get more attention because there are fewer women athletes than men. A male athlete, to be famous, has to be really, really good because he has lots of competition. There aren't that many women [to compete with]. But our team, [consisting of] men and women, strength is not really the basis. Some girl shooters have higher scores than boys. I think for our sport, [men and women] are pretty equal.

N: I guess it's equal *rin*. But I think the girls have the edge. For example, if you were known for that sport, the men would say, "Watch out for this girl." We have the edge. People will know you as a better person if you're a woman athlete.

JENNY Guerrero with coach Ryuzo Ishikawa

Why sports? Why rifle and pistol shooting, football, swimming?

M: Honestly, I think everyone should be involved in a sport. It really helps you as a person. You learn teamwork. It's not what you can learn in school *lang*, *eh*. When you're involved in a sport, you learn discipline. You learn to train yourself, to push yourself harder. [In] shooting, I really discipline myself to train as often as I can, [recognize] my mistakes and try to fix them.

J: I think same *din sa kanya*. *Kasi kapag may* sport *ka*, *may* self-control *ka*, *eh*. In swimming *kasi* you have to train hard to improve your time. You can't just sit there and wait for the competition. You're not going to improve and *kailangan talaga ng* discipline *para manalo*.

N: It's the same. [Sport] gives me self-confidence. It also helps me become a better person. Balancing school and sport helps me be a better person.

What does it take to be a woman athlete?

N: I think it takes guts. When you're a girl, people will think, "*Ah, mahina yan.*" You really have to prove yourself and prove to others that we can do this.

M: It's always good to take up a challenge. *Yun na nga*, everyone thinks that [because you're] a girl, they can beat you because you're weaker. But once you prove them wrong, then they see girls in a completely different light. That's what we're trying to do—make the world realize that girls are not what they used to be.

J: *Ganun din*. If you train hard and you win, *lahat talaga ng* attention *nasa 'yo, eh*. *Maski yung* men, they really look up to you *kahit na yung* accomplishment mo is not on the same level as the guys'.

Who works harder, you or the males?

N: Well, in our team, I think the men take the sport more seriously. That's how I see it *kasi sila* [they say], "Oh! I have to be tough!" or "We have to win again." Our men's team really wants to win so we also want to win.

M: In our team, men and women train about the same [intensity] but I think the women probably have more discipline. Our team has no scheduled training time. You train when you're free. I think in this case the women are more disciplined.

J: *Kapag* training *kasabay ko mga* guys. *Sobrang laki ng* time *nila* compared *sa* time *ko*. So *hinahabol ko sila*. *Napu*-push *ako masyado kapag kasama ko ang mga* guys. I feel challenged. I have to work harder. *Pero pareho lang kami* basically, *eh*.

How does it feel to be in the company of other women who excel in their respective sports?

N: It's nice to know that other women are doing well in sports.

M: I think it will inspire younger women who feel sports are still male-dominated. There are a lot of possibilities for them. They have all the chances to get involved in a sport.

J: Overwhelming *kasi may* women role models *naman*, not just men.

Complete the sentence. "Nobody told me that..."

N: Nobody told me that I couldn't be whatever I wanted to be. Whatever I work hard for, I can achieve. (Beams)

M: Nobody told me that a woman could never be better than a man. (Laughs)

J: Nobody told me that you couldn't fulfill your dreams and aspirations. (Laughs)

"I love a man who..."

M: Supports me in everything that I do. (Smiles)

J: Who is a gentleman. (Smiles)

N: Has a sense of humor. (Laughs)

"Being a woman means..."

M: Being a woman means being strong-willed, having the drive yet being sensitive to things that you have to be sensitive about.

J: Being a woman means that you can always get even with a man. (Laughs)

N: *Ako*, being a woman is no joke. I want to erase the [phrase] "just a girl." We're more than that. We can also prove something.

M: It's not easy being a girl. It's not.

N: It's not just sitting pretty and "laugh-laugh." No, its not!

J: We're definitely more than that. (Smiles)

Email the author at s_a_l_e_e_m_a @yahoo.com

Thanks to Chrissy Icamina of Ateneo, Joan Ignacio of UP and Erick Olonan of La Salle

UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

2002 UAAP Basketball Schedule
Junior/Senior division

First Round

July 18, Rizal
10 a.m. AdU vs NU (jrs)
11:45 a.m. DLSU vs UE (jrs)
2 p.m. AdU vs NU (srs)
4 p.m. DLSU vs UE (srs) TV Game

July 20, Rizal
11:30 a.m. ADMU vs UST (jrs)
2 p.m. UP vs FEU (srs)
4 p.m. AdMU vs UST (srs)

July 21, Rizal
10 a.m. NU vs DLSU (jrs)
11:45 a.m. UE vs AdU (jrs)
2 p.m. UE vs AdU (srs)
4 p.m. NU vs DLSU (srs)

July 25, Rizal
11:30 a.m. UST vs UP (jrs)
2 p.m. UST vs UP (srs)
4 p.m. FEU vs AdMU (srs) TV Game

July 27, Rizal
11:30 a.m. UP vs AdMU (jrs)
2 p.m. AdU vs FEU (srs)
4 p.m. UP vs AdMU (srs)

July 28, Loyola
10 a.m. UE vs NU (jrs)
11:45 a.m. DLSU vs UST (jrs)
2 p.m. UE vs NU (srs)
4 p.m. DLSU vs UST (srs)

Aug. 1, Rizal
11:30 a.m. AdMU vs UE (jrs)
2 p.m. AdMU vs UE (srs)
4 p.m. FEU vs UST (srs) TV Game

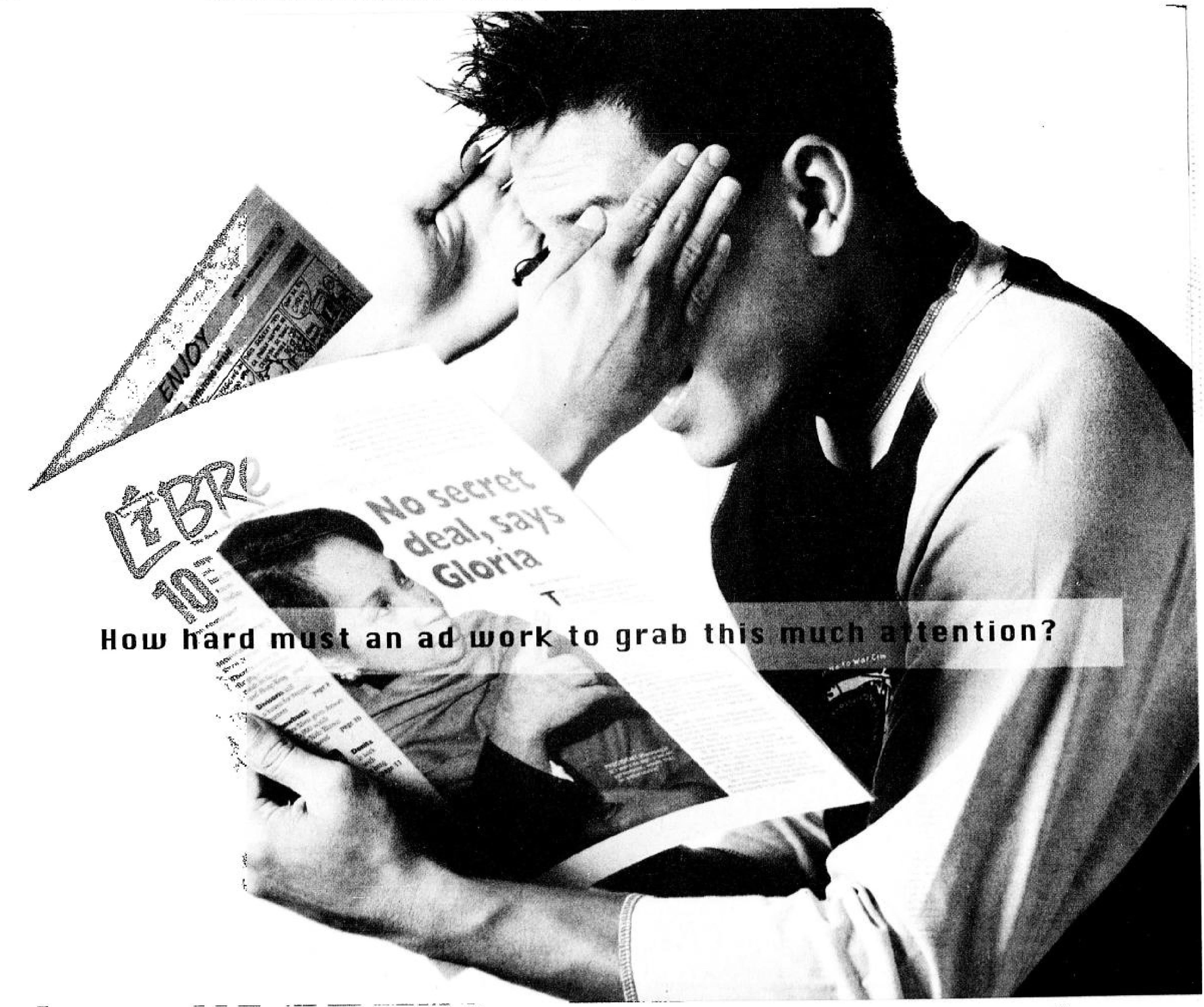
Aug. 3, Loyola
11:30 a.m. UP vs DLSU (jrs)
2 p.m. UP vs DLSU (srs)
4 p.m. FEU vs UE (srs)

Aug. 4, Loyola
10 a.m. AdU vs AdMU (jrs)
11:45 a.m. UST vs NU (jrs)
2 p.m. AdU vs AdMU (srs)
4 p.m. UST vs NU (srs)

Aug. 8, Rizal
10 a.m. NU vs UP (jrs)
11:45 a.m. DLSU vs AdU (jrs)
2 p.m. DLSU vs AdU (srs)
4 p.m. NU vs UP (srs) TV Game

Aug. 10, Araneta Coliseum
10 a.m. UE vs UST (jrs)
11:45 a.m. AdMU vs DLSU (jrs)
2 p.m. UE vs UST (srs)
4 p.m. AdMU vs DLSU (srs)

Aug. 11, Rizal
11:45 a.m. UP vs AdU (jrs)
2 p.m. UP vs AdU (srs)
4 p.m. FEU vs NU (srs)



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For inquiries please contact: Mr. Pepito Olarte, VP for Advertising (0917-537-2348) or Mr. Kenny [illegible]

Libre

Where to go for hair rebonding

Make Over 911
Kinny Salas

I HAVE big, bushy and curly hair. I blow dry everyday and it takes so much time. I am thinking of having my hair straightened but everyone says this is the worse thing you can do to your hair. My officemate mentioned something called "rebonding." What exactly is this? How is it different from the regular straightening? Won't it damage my hair? If you think it's okay, where will I go and how much does it cost?

SYDNEY

If you blow dry your hair every single day, it can be much more damaging than straightening it once and repeating the procedure six weeks after. You might as well straighten it. I would definitely recommend rebonding for you. Rebonding, or straight perm as other salons would call it, is a hair straightening procedure wherein chemical is combed into your hair and left for three hours minimum. After the procedure is done, you will have straight, sleek hair like Jennifer Aniston's. Unlike the stiff broom-like texture you get from regular straightening, this one leaves your hair soft and shiny. In fact, you can color your hair the same day. One drawback is that you will not be allowed to wash your hair for 48 hours for the medicine to set. The effects will last a good six months.

I know some salons that can give you such service and even got their price lists. Call the numbers I listed and inquire about the salon branch nearest you. There are different prices for different hair lengths. Short is boy cut or ear length; medium is chin to nape; long is shoulder length; very long is past shoulder till bra strap; extremely long is to the waist.

Hairbytes (tel. 887-2047): S-P2,000; M-P3,500; L-P5,000; other lengths they have to see.

Piandre or Gem Salon: S-P3,850; M-P5,775; L-P6,737; VL-P7,700; EL- P12,512.

Franck Provost: S-P4,000; M-P4,500; L-P5,000; VL- P5,500.

Ricky Reyes (tel. 725-4959): S-P2,500; M-L-P3,000; VL-P3,500; XL-P4,000.

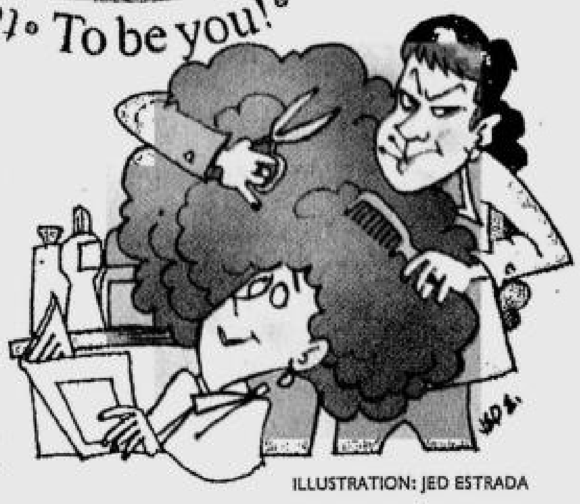
Note: According to Pin Antonio of Salon de Manila, this procedure is good for everyone except those with extremely thin curly hair in texture and quantity. She would instead cut your hair in such a way that it will be most flattering to your face and will work with your curls.

When does one use a toner and an astringent? I have acne-prone skin and some dermas tell me to use astringent, while others say it's bad and I should use a toner. I am so confused. Can you shed some light to this?

ENZO

Toners are recommended for people who have normal to dry and sensitive skin. Astringents, on the other hand, are reserved for those with oily and acne-prone skin. However, if you are undergoing acne treatments such as Retinoic acid, AHA or BHA, your skin becomes sensitive and dry so a toner will be better for you. Astringents are meant to remove excess oils, thus, there is alcohol in it that will cause sensitive skin to sting and dry out. People who peel will not have a problem with excess oil clogging their pores so astringents are not necessary. I have very oily skin but I switched to a toner when I hit 30 because I found astringents to be too strong and the drying effect caused dry dead skin to clog my pores, leading me to break out. There are alcohol-free toners for oily skin like tea tree cleanser from Bench's Prescribe and The Body Shop. Neutrogena, L'Oreal, and Godiva have alcohol-free toners as well that benefit the greasiest of skin.

For any questions or products you want to road-test, write to Make Over 911, PDI Lifestyle or fax at 8974805



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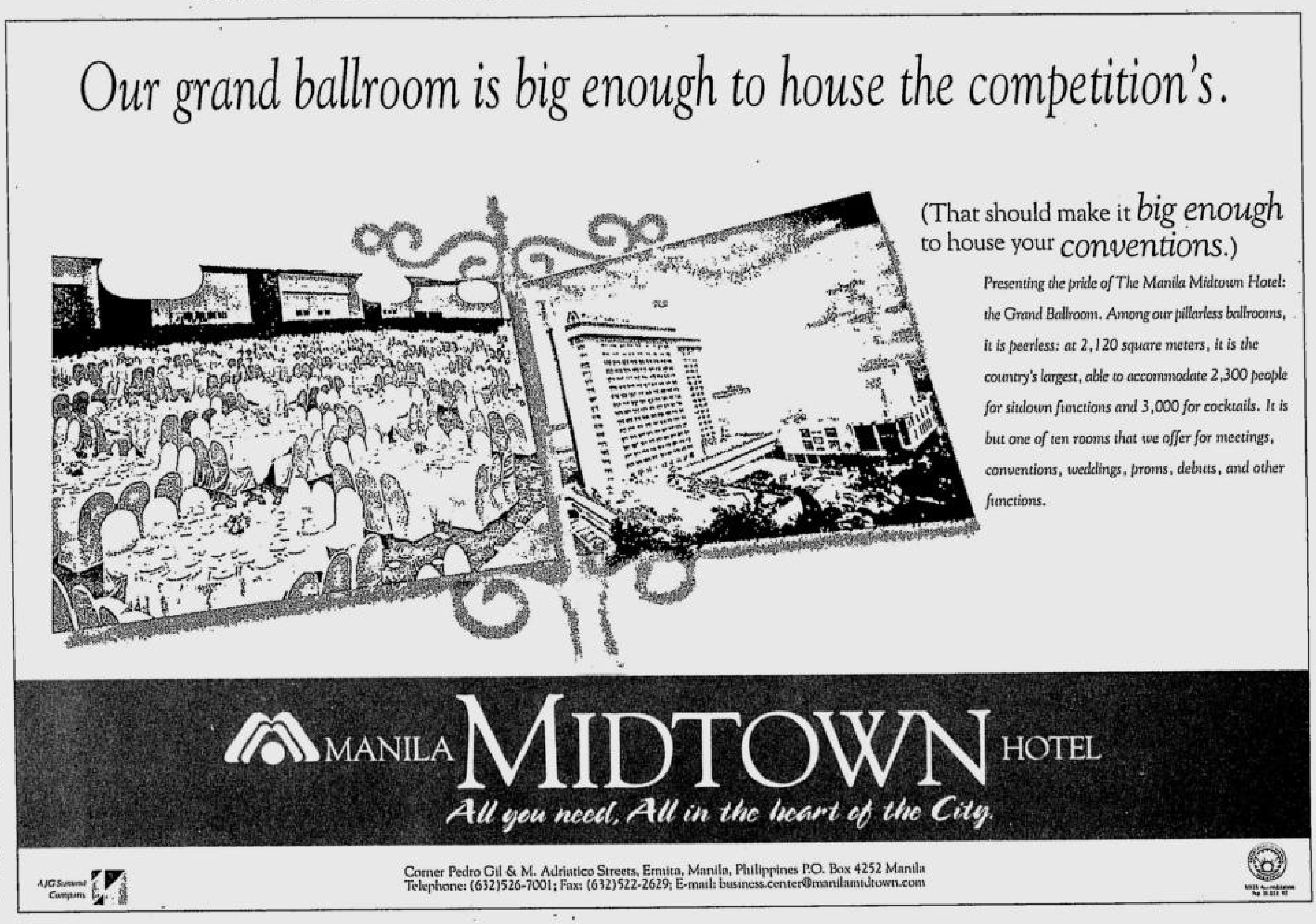
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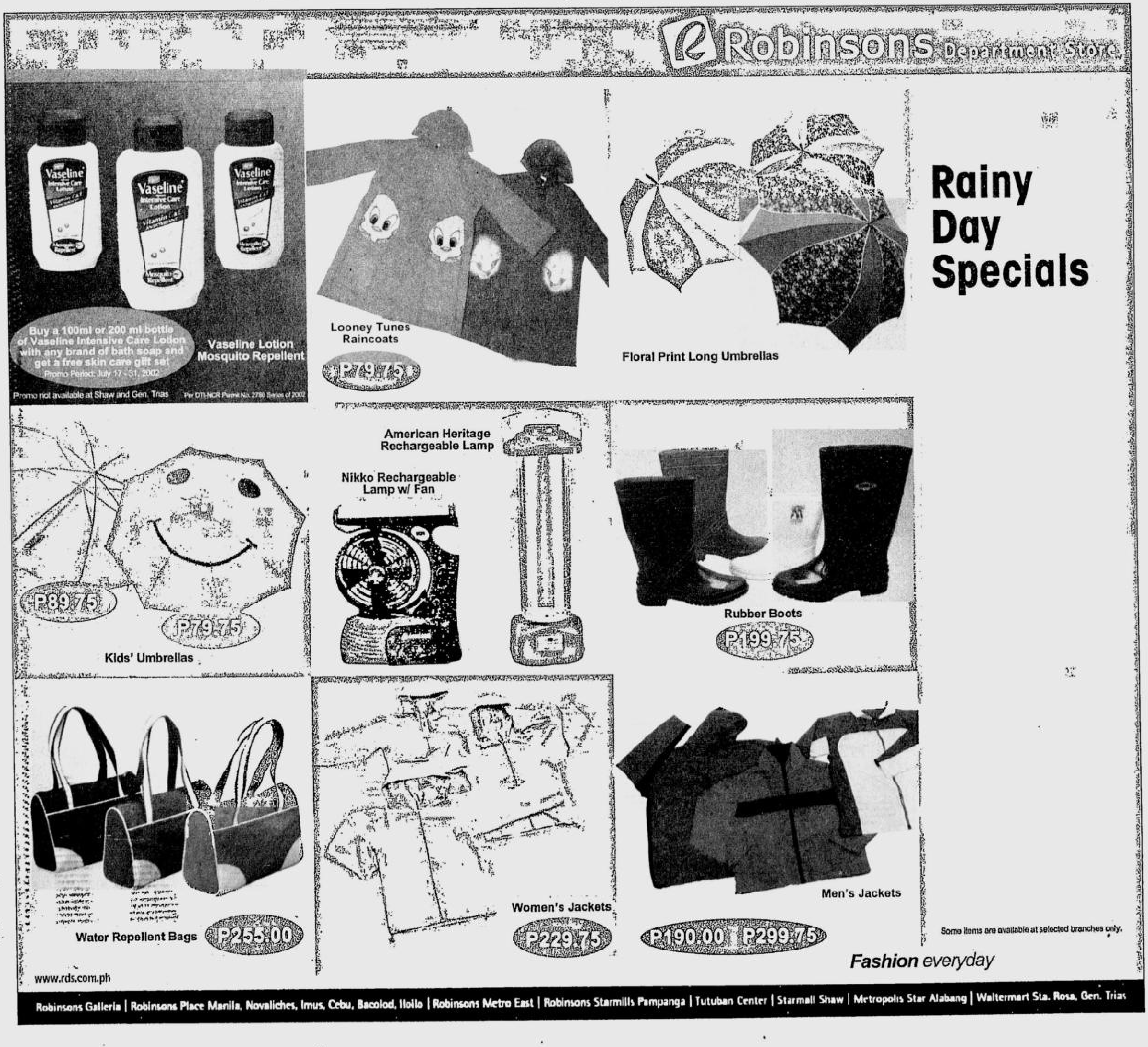
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Who is your UAAP hero?

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

SCHOOL spirit is very palpable during the UAAP season. With all the towering lads proudly dribbling their balls for their schools plus all the enthusiastic souls cheering for their teams, there's no doubt that the best feet are put forward. But on court or off, win or lose, our UAAP heroes remain the champs in our hearts. Here are some UAAP fanatics cheering for their favorites.

I am amazed with Ronald Tubid. He's the greatest. He's with the University of the East and everybody from his school should be proud of him. Every move he makes is stunning. He's definitely one of the most exciting players. **—S. Pasco, avid UAAP follower**

Arnold Booker. He's superb, and I know he has a lot of fans not only from UE. He's such a favorite of many fans.**—Aileen Piolo, 21, definitely a Booker fan**

Mark Isip of FEU.**—Kenneth G., 17**

I love Paul Artadi of UE. *Gwapo*!!!**—Raqui, 19**

Boycie Zamar, the UE head coach, is my UAAP hero. I can attest to his incredible leadership skills.**—Missy T., 21, UE student**

Wala nang gagaling pa kay LA Tenorio.**—Terrence Añover, 24**

My UAAP hero is Enrico Villanueva of AdMU. Every time he plays you can see that his body and soul are always prepared for the game.**—G. Putnam, 23**

I'm a huge fan of LA Tenorio who plays for Ateneo de Manila University. He's fast and furious!**—Elaine Palaganas, didn't get to see "The Fast and the Furious"**

Si Froilan Baguion. *Basta, magaling 'yon.*—**Shane, 22**

Douglas Kramer's a great player, plus he's really cute!**—Roderigo, 21**

Wala. 'Di naman kasali 'yung school *namin 'dyan, eh.*—**Dennis Jericho, PUP**

Si Cesar Catli Jr. *ng* FEU *ang hinahangaan ko.*—**Gilda Osana, 19**

A good role model for the younger players is Enrico Villanueva. Education is very important to him plus he's such a God-fearing person. That makes him my hero.**—Euanne Sarmiento, 21, values education**

My UAAP hero is Mark Cardona of De La Salle. He's perfect, He's a complete package. You couldn't ask for anything more.**—Marcia Marcelino, 18, a complete package herself**

Si Rich Alvarez of AdMU.**—Bong Atas, 22**

Green Archer Willy Wilson is an impressive player and a good person. That is why I consider him my UAAP hero.**—Dexter Rada, 27**

I like Conrad Santico of NU.**—Joel M., 19**

I adore Enrico Villanueva of AdMU. *Siya ang* next tower of power but even better. *Galing*!**—Ronnel Mandocdoc, 18**

I love the cheerleaders. They should be commended for the amazingly tough job that they do.**—Thania, cheerleader**

Richie Alvarez of Ateneo is my UAAP hero. He's a very good player. Definitely a cool guy. Go Blue Eagles!**—Pao Pilapil, looking for someone special from Ateneo**

Mike Cortez is the man! *Maliit pero magaling talaga. Sobra!* DLSU's lucky to have him, the point guard of the future.**—Claire Mae, 19**

Sonny Paguia, the UAAP's 2002-03 season president. He's with National University. I think he's doing a great job. **–Katherine Ocampo, 20**

I love Rico Villanueva! He's awesome and I'm sure the rest of Ateneo agrees.**—E. Estrada, 18**

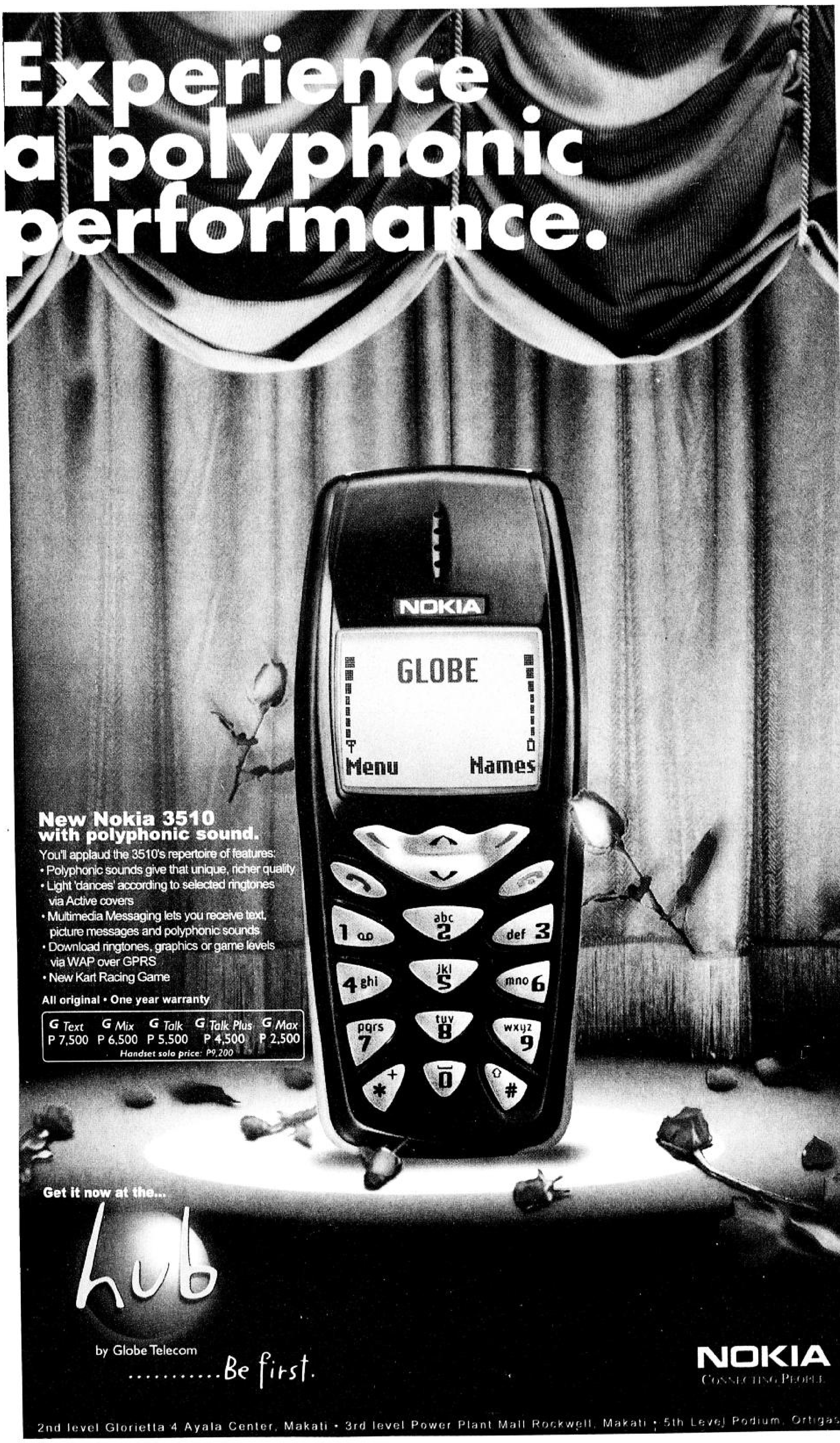
Ateneo's Rich Alvarez is awesome. I'm such a huge fan *kasi* he's a versatile player and it's just so obvious *na* very athletic *siya.*—**R. Crispino, 18, athletic**

Froilan Baguion's my UAAP hero. National University's court general is simply amazing.**—Brian, 21**

FEU's Gerard Jones. **–Shiela E., 20**

No one. I couldn't care less actually. I'm not really into sports.**—Ingrid, 24, into other stuff**

E-mail the author at katotino@yahoo.com



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